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Palestinian Affairs

'Abd-al-Shafi on Christopher Visit, Criticism of 'Arafat

TA1607175593 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the negotiating delegation, by Yoni Ben-Menahem in Jerusalem on 16 July—recorded]

[Text] [Ben-Menahem] What is your opinion on U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's expected visit to the region?

['Abd-al-Shafi] In principle, we will continue to deal with the U.S. Administration—with the sponsor—in order to find out what Christopher will bring with him to advance the peace process. I hope that we will be able to deal with what the U.S. secretary will put forward.

[Ben-Menahem] Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, you have leveled criticism at the PLO leadership. Is there a personal dispute between you and Yasir 'Arafat?

['Abd-al-Shafi] No. There is no personal dispute between me and Mr. Yasir 'Arafat. In fact, I did not make direct criticism. All I said was that the Palestinian position needs a collective leadership that functions on a democratic basis.

[Ben-Menahem] What is the flaw today in the Palestinian people's leadership? What is the problem?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Without specifying any problem, in principle—and I think this is acceptable—a collective leadership is the ideal approach and democracy is the right method in the work of every leadership.

[Ben-Menahem] Is collective leadership possible under Israeli domination?

['Abd-al-Shafi] We will examine this to see if it is possible or not.

[Ben-Meanhem] Through elections?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Perhaps. I do not wish to speculate about what will happen in the future, but the answer to your question is that if we reach a stage whereby we wish to establish a collective leadership, we will test the Israeli position on this issue.

Bassam Abu-Sharif on U.S. Paper, Peace Talks

JN1607203793 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1748 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Interview with Bassam Abu-Sharif, Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, by Ghassan Salamah, from "The Event" program; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-Sharif] I believe the United States is now studying the responses—the ideas, or thoughts if you will—that were put forward by the parties, including the PLO, about the draft that was forwarded at the end of the 10th round. Without a doubt, the ball is now in the court of the U.S. Administration, which is on record as stating its willingness to be not just a broker but a full partner. The world public and the people in the region know that the peace process is almost at a dead end. What is needed now is a forceful American intervention and commitment to the principles that launched the peace process.

[Salamah] What will the Palestinian reaction be like in the event Tel Aviv sticks to its position that the Jerusalem issue cannot, for now, appear on the agenda?

[Abu-Sharif] Resolutions 242 and 338 are the bedrock of the peace process and the Bush initiative that set in motion the Madrid Conference and the subsequent negotiations. The resolutions provide for the full legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people. There can be no concessions on these two resolutions, these being the only point of reference for the negotiating process. At this point in time, what we need are not Palestinian concessions, but a firm U.S. position and the application of a single standard insofar as the application of UN resolutions. To date, the U.S. Administration has been applying double standards where UN resolutions are concerned. Without a doubt, the U.S. Administration is certainly favoring Israel. We want the U.S. Administration to apply a single standard and be a full partner rather than a party applying pressure on the Arab side.

[Salamah] What you are saying reminds me of Haydar 'Abd-al- Shafi's call for the formation of a collective PLO leadership to do the Palestinian decisionmaking. He has also called for a drastic overhaul of the organization and curtailing of 'Arafat's powers. It has been said that the background to these remarks is a unilateral Palestinian decision to back down from a PLO rejection of the American draft declaration of principles. I would first like to hear your reaction to Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi's call for the formation of a collecitve PLO leadership?

[Abu-Sharif] With due respect to my brother and the friend of all of us, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the Palestinian leadership is in fact a collective one, and decisions are made on quite clear grounds. The PLO drew up a program that received the endorsement of the Palestine National Council [PNC], and the executive leadership has no right to alter this plan. There is a difference between opponents to this program who oppose all the subsequent details, and those who support it and need clarifications from the executive leadership on a point here and there. The Palestinian leadership is collective. I do not think that there is a democratic practice superior to the one seen in the Palestinian arena. I believe that public opinion will back me up here. Naitonal figures and parties within the Palestinian camp speak their minds in public, and Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi is one of them. Palestinian decisions are made collectively, and no one has a monopoly over decisionmaking. I repeat that there is a commitment to a program endorsed by the PNC—a

program on the basis of which the PNC elected the PLO Executive Committee members.

[Salamah] There has been talk of the PLO backtracking on its rejection of the American document, which is the background to Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi's position.

[Abu-Sharif] Let's get one thing straight first. There is no American document. We are talking about a draft American paper that has been handed to all the parties for them to give their respective opinions. An American spokesman said the words of this draft are not etched in stone. I would like to remind you that objections came from other parties besides the Palestinians. [words indistinct] is based on the PLO adhering to the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and the unity of the land and that the Palestinian people and their territory are an indivisible whole.

[Salamah] Does the new Palestinian viewpoint postpone discussing or deciding on the issue of Jerusalem to a later phase?

[Abu-Sharif] There is a difference between tackling the issue of holy Jerusalem, in principle and with regard to implementing Resolution 242 on Jerusalem—on which no concessions will be made—and the timing of a detailed discussion of this issue. We demanded a clear declaration of principles in which there should be a clear mention and a clear commitment to implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy. As you know, Resolution 242 applies to all territories occupied in 1967.

[Salamah] Your position is known regarding the idea of establishing a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation. But what is your reply to Shim'on Peres' new proposal that calls for initiating a dialogue with the Palestinians, which would focus on this idea as an alternative at a time when negotiations on the transitional self-rule are colliding with demands not acceptable to the Israeli side?

[Abu-Sharif] The establishment of a confederation was also a decision made by the Palestine National Council [PNC]. This decision is not new; it was made several years ago. We indeed believe that a confederation between an independent Palestinian state and Jordan will be a historic inevitability as a result of the historic relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples and the social and economic unity realized between the two peoples long ago. The establishment of such a confederation should never mean violating, harming, or disregarding the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. On this basis, the PLO leadership frequently discussed this issue seriously with the parties concerned. I believe that there is no objection in principle by our Jordanian brothers or by His Majesty King Husayn. However, this matter concerns the appropriate timing to set up the enterprises of this confederation. This problem cannot be circumvented or evaded by making premature decisions. As Palestinians, we support this confederation, as I told you. No doubt, the PLO leadership is now studying in detail Yosi Beilin's remarks, which express Shim'on Peres' views. After this study, there will be an official PLO position.

[Salamah] In your opinion, was the Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue held recently in Amman only part of coordination dictated by the negotiations with Israel?

[Abu-Sharif] Our relationship with Jordan is very close. The relationship between President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and His Majesty King Husayn is also a deep one. Moreover, there is full understanding on how to work together in order to continue the peace process, achieve its desired objectives, and confront all obstacles to this process placed by the Israeli Government. No doubt, the coordination steps are taking advanced forms in an accelerating manner due to the complex nature of the Middle East issue, the Israeli Government's rejectionist position, and the U.S. Administration's reluctance to play the role of a full partner who uses one standard in dealing with the international legitimacy.

[Salamah] My last question is on reports in the press, particularly the newspaper HA'ARETZ, that contacts were held between the PLO and the Israeli side. What is the truth and substance of these contacts, especially since they were confirmed and then denied?

[Abu-Sharif] Allow me to use this question in order to once again clarify that the PNC made a clear decision several years ago on working for arranging contacts with Israeli political forces and Israelis in order to find a solution based on ending the occupation and achieving peace. Those who criticize such activities should recall that the matter is linked to the PNC's decisions and that those who hold such contacts serve the PNC's program and decisions.

[Salamah] But were these contacts really held?

[Abu-Sharif] With regard to the HA'ARETZ report, I can say that there were attempts to hold such contacts, but they have thus far not been fruitful. In fact, official contacts between the PLO leadership or PLO officials and Israeli Government members were not held. However, these attempts are continuing. President Abu-'Ammar frequently said that, based on PNC decisions, he is ready to meet with Rabin in order to promote the peace process and end the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian and Arab territories. This is not a new matter. However, it is the Israeli side that has thus far rejected this matter and tried to turn a blind eye to the [Palestinian] realities that are established every day on the ground despite all attempts by the Israeli Government.

[Salamah] Does this mean there is no secret negotiating track that may be disclosed some day?

[Abu-Sharif] There is no secret negotiating track. The PLO, along with the brothers in Syria, Jordan, Egypt, and Lebanon, is committed to holding negotiations in a

collective manner, and to the fact that ending the occupation—in implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338—means ending the occupation of all Arab territories, whether Palestinian or non-Palestinian.

[Salamah] Thank you, Mr. Bassam Abu-Sharif.

[Abu-Sharif] Thank you.

Al-Husayni Interviewed on U.S. Stand, Confederation

JN1807140693 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 18 Jul 93 pp 10, 11

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, head of the delegation to the Arab-Israeli talks, by AL-DUSTUR correspondents in Amman; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-DUSTUR] Palestinian and Arab citizens have many questions about the ongoing peace talks and the practical and tangible results—if there are any—of the 10 rounds of talks. We would like to speak in detail about these questions.

There is a Palestinian and Arab consensus that the 10th round of peace talks has failed, thus increasing the disappointment accumulated over the past 20 months. On the other hand, there are reports that serious and secret contacts and negotiations have been taking place between the Palestinians and Israelis throughout the past several months. What do you think of this? Are there really contacts and negotiations? And if so, where have they reached?

[Al-Husayni] First, I would like to speak about the 10th round. It is too early to say whether this round has failed or succeeded. So far, we have not had any failed or successful rounds. There might be progress or retreat in the rounds, as this is the nature of negotiations. I might present a paper to the other side at the end of a stage of talks, or the other side might present me with a paper. The answer to either paper has yet to come. So I believe it is incorrect to say that this round has failed or succeeded.

The other thing I would like to say is that the negotiations are a part of a continuous political process. The entire process is like a military battle. However, our talks are completely different from military battles. Our talks are a part of a military battle or a political battle. War is politics. When you lead a negotiating process you should prepare all the tools used in political and military battles.

The similarity between a political battle and a military battle is the fact that you must wage the battle no matter how the other side acts. If you withdraw from a battle, you are committing a big mistake because you will then accept the fait accompli. Therefore, withdrawing from the negotiations is like withdrawing from a battlefield.

The difference, however, is that in a military battle each army counts its planes, tanks, and forces, as well as what the enemy has. When one of the armies is destroyed and its land is lost, it will sit before the other side and sign a document reflecting the results of this battle.

In our negotiations, which began in accordance with other criteria defined by UN Resolutions 242 and 338, nothing will force us to sign any treaty. It is my will that prevents me from signing any document, not the balance of power, as happens at the end of a military battle. Therefore, I will lose in the negotiations only when I sign a treaty or an agreement that is not based on what was defined at the beginning of the talks. This did not happen in the 10th round or in the ninth round. On the contrary, I can affirm that we succeeded throughout the rounds in changing basic stands of the Israeli side.

The Israeli side began the talks insisting that there was no Palestinian track or Palestinian delegation and that we were only a part of the Jordanian delegation. Now, however, there is a Palestinian track and a Palestinian delegation. Today, they speak about a Palestinian delegation and a Jordanian delegation. Nobody speaks about a joint delegation. The other thing is that the Israelis insisted that only Palestinians from the occupied territories could participate in the talks and that Palestinians from outside the occupied territories and from Jerusalem could not participate. Now, however, the Palestinians from outside the occupied territories are a basic factor in the talks; they participate in all working committees of the bilateral talks. The Israelis did not want anybody from Jerusalem to take part in the talks, and they threatened to walk out of the talks. Now, you can see the difference.

We were not allowed into the negotiating hall in Moscow because I—a person from Jerusalem—was leading the delegation. A week ago, the same delegation, which was not allowed at the negotiations a year and a half ago, was sitting at the negotiating table. While land was not a topic of discussion when Shamir was in power, we are now discussing land as one unit. Therefore, what is taking place in each round of talks is not a Palestinian move toward the Israeli stand, but a Palestinian move within Resolution 242 toward the Palestinian position.

Regarding the secret talks, I would like to say there are no secret talks. The negotiations are criticized because all the cards are on the table. There are no secrets. The chief delegates hold news conferences and briefings on the process on a daily basis. Whenever we received a certain paper, we saw it in the press the next day. Consequently, the negotiations are taking place in the media. The situation might require secret talks, but nothing like this has happened so far. [passage omitted]

[AL-DUSTUR] Even though there was some optimism regarding the position the United States, under the Clinton administration, would take on the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli negotiations, we have learned that the Americans, as manifested in the document they submitted to the Palestinian delegation, retreated from their earlier positions. This disappointed

average Palestinians and Arabs. How would you evaluate this document? How damaging was it to the 10th round of talks and to the next round of talks, if there is a next round?

[Al-Husayni] We were not optimistic about the U.S. position. As a matter of fact, we were aware of the U.S. position, of the restrictions of this position, and of U.S. requirements, as well.

First, we want the United States to honor the commitments it made to us before the start of the negotiations through the letter of assurances, which says that Israel must withdraw from the occupied territories, that East Jerusalem is part of these occupied territories, and that its annexation is illegal and unlawful. The U.S. letter of assurances that was delivered to us states that the objective of the negotiations is to end occupation and allow the Palestinian people to have control over their lives, to have a say about their fate. It is true that the Americans do not approve of the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. However, they do not rule out a confederation. They have not spoken of a solution envisaging a federation.

So, we do have a host of U.S. positions contained in the letter of assurances. All these positions are in line with our own position, rather than the Israeli position. Consequently, I can meet the Americans face to face and address them, saying: This is the letter of assurances you delivered to us. The positions contained in this letter must reflect on your policies.

Second, we are well aware that the United States wants to see a stable Middle East. Similarly, we know the United States is fully aware that there can be no stability in the Middle East unless the Palestine question is resolved and that there can be no solution to the Palestine question without the Palestinians. We know full well that we cannot dictate the solution we want. However, we are strong enough to thwart or paralyze any solution that does not suit our own interests. It follows from this premise that we cannot ensure the United States the stability it wishes to have in the Middle East. However, we can deny it a stable Middle East.

This capability of ours is passive. However, we are using it positively to elicit action. We are addressing the United States, saying: We are for stability; we are for peace; we are for cooperation. However, we do have our own terms. If these terms are not met, there will be no stability in the region.

Based on our awareness of the needs of the United States and on the fact that we did obtain a letter of assurances from the Americans that contained the positions I have mentioned, we are waging a battle. We are asking the United States to intervene. We are sure it must eventually honor the commitments it made to us, regardless of the promises Clinton made to the Israelis and the efforts of the powerful Zionist lobby in the United States. After all, we are not waging this battle without any defenses.

[AL-DUSTUR] Following the 10th round, Mr. Dennis Ross visited the region to push the peace process ahead. The Palestinian delegation met with him more than once to bridge the gap betweeen the Israeli and Palestinian stands, specifically on Jerusalem—the land, sovereignty, and other issues. What is the upshot of these contacts? Has the gap been bridged, and how do you view the future of Jerusalem in light of the developments of these negotiations?

[Al-Husayni] Dennis Ross came to us with the same paper that was submitted during the negotiations. Only eight minutes after we received the paper, we contacted them and told them that this paper is not suitable as a basis for the peace process. We did not do so because we were in a hurry, but because there was a key sentence that was the basis of this paper and the entire issue revolved around land. It speaks about this land as being disputed territory. This, in itself, negates reality and violates Resolution 242. This land is occupied territory, and any talk that it is disputed territory is a violation of the laws and the bases. We told them that the issues of territorial jurisdiction and Jerusalem should be the basis of this paper. Therefore, we refuse to discuss this paper as a basis for the peace process. We are ready to discuss the issue of Jerusalem and that of territorial jurisdiction. When we see that the paper is in line with Resolution 242, then we will be ready to discuss other things. [passage omitted]

[AL-DUSTUR] How do you see the future of Jerusalem in light of the negotiations?

[Al-Husayni] I hate to see Jerusalem divided. On the ground, Jerusalem is now divided into two cities: a city that lives under the yoke of occupation and another that is free. We want to reach a formula where Jerusalem will be an open city that will be our capital as Palestinians, as well as their capital. This is my personal opinion. [passage omitted]

[AL-DUSTUR] The evaluation report that was submitted to the Palestinian command mentions that all the terms of reference have collapsed. Are we in the process of searching for new terms of reference that state specifically that the U.S. and Israeli stands view Resolution 242 as applying to disputed, not occupied, territory?

The second point is that we want everything, but what can we achieve at the negotiating table under the canopy of the equation you spoke about a few moments ago?

A third point: You said that there are no secret negotiations, but, according to what we know, there are secret negotiations. You met with Peres before the ninth round.

A fourth point: We entered the 10th round under the slogan of "Let's try."

A fifth point: The Palestinian delegation does not speak in unison. There is more than one language. You speak one language, an optimistc language. You said in Washington that the Palestinian state will be established in

1998. Recently, you sent indications to Tunis that the U.S. document will come out in the form we want. Have you been deceived?

[Al-Husayni] Concerning the last point, I did not say such things about the U.S. document. I only claim what I know and what we want. As for what others want, it conflicts with what we want.

We did not imagine that the United States would submit a document. We had many doubts about what the United States could give or not give and what it could carry out in secret or not. We had too many doubts on all these things.

As for the issue of "Let's try," this was emphasized more before the ninth round and not the 10th round because there was a new administration and we had to deal with this new administration. This was what took place during the ninth round.

Any Palestinian can issue a statement saying we should pull out of these negotiations, that the negotiating and peace process has grown pointless, and that this announcement should take place with Kalashnikovs and military action. But advocates of a pullout from the negotiations must first come up with an alternative. Failing that, let's stay with the negotiating option. Until an alternative option is found, I have to keep talking. At the negotiating table, I have no need for a balance of power. How many Israeli tanks there are or how many Palestinians are killed every day is irrelevant here. What we need at the negotiating table is the free will to sign or not. Negotiations can go on for 10 years or for as briefly as one year. What really counts here is what will eventually come out of the negotiations.

To withdraw from the negotiating process amounts to settling the affair once and for all. But I have partners—the Jordanians, the Lebanese, and the Syrians. If I want to quit, the partners should share the decision so that all of us pull out simultaneously. But to withdraw and thus transfer the burden onto the others is not right, nor is it right for me to quit so that the others may carry on with the process. No one's interests are served by such repeated calls. There is a negotiating process going on that I will stick to because what is at stake here is our rights.

I have every right to pull out if I want to. But let's not undermine this right by repeating the call to withdraw, and let's stop asking ourselves before every round whether to go or not. If a good reason arises, we will withdraw. If we must withdraw, there has to be a ready alternative. Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi is not exactly calling for withdrawal. He is saying that the Palestinians went into the negotiations at the say-so of the Palestine National Council. The PNC decision to join the talks was prompted mainly by our concern to bring Jewish settlement activity to a halt. Settlement activity, however, has not been halted to our satisfaction. It has been curtailed in the West Bank and Gaza, but not in Jerusalem. Under the circumstances, I ask myself whether I will stay with the negotiating process—and ignore the PNC decision that the negotiators must seek to bring settlement to a halt—or go back to the PNC and seek a new decision that says that I should carry on even with the settlement building continuing unabated. I would rather keep trying to get settlement activity halted—even if that would seem to run against the PNC resolution—than refer back to the PNC for a fresh mandate.

As for secret contacts, there have been a good many between Israelis and Palestinians—in the press and on television, as well as meetings behind the scenes, but not in the context of the Washington talks. Such clandestine meetings seem to be uncalled for now. In any negotiations, there comes a moment when so-called secret contacts become necessary, but we have not gotten to that point yet. Certain issues or snags may need to be handled through behind-the-scenes contacts, but there are no backstage negotiations and, thus, no secret negotiations between us and the Israelis. [passage omitted]

[AL-DUSTUR] How do calls for pulling out of the talks square with the dispatch of Palestinians [to Jordan and Egypt] to receive training in security duties, the news of the establishment of a television and radio station, and the call for convening an Arab and Palestinian conference in Jerusalem to consider investment?

[Al-Husayni] There are things you can obtain at the negotiating table and others you cannot. And there are things that you cannot possibly obtain other than through established facts on the ground. Neither negotiations nor military force will return Jerusalem. I have to establish realities on the ground and make my presence felt in East Jerusalem.

We have built establishments in Jerusalem. We deliberately headquartered all social, economic, and educational establishments in Jerusalem, the point being to emphasize its centrality to the rest of the occupied territories. These establishments are playing an increasing role. For example, we have the Arab Studies Society, which incorporates the Orient House, where foreign diplomats are received and preparations for infrastructure are made. This place is the nerve center of the negotiating process.

The Israelis have started to refer to this place as the government house. In order to be able to impose and develop a status quo, I must be able to protect it. Just imagine that I have documents or meetings held in that place, doesn't this require protection? And who will protect them, Israeli security? If you officially receive a prime minister or a foreign minister in this building, and you do not want Israeli security forces to be there, doesn't this guest presume that I have sufficient security capabilities to protect him or to defuse a bomb that could explode? Don't these officials have the right to be protected by persons who, at least, are aware of the basics of security?

What we have done so far is form a unit entrusted with protecting the Palestinian institutions, foreign guests, or

even the Palestinian personalities who play an important political role at a certain stage. There are Israeli groups, such as the Israeli terrorist group TNT [acronym in English, expansion not given], the Kahane organization, and others, that seek to harm us. Let us not forget that when we formed the national steering council to act as a government, three of its members were the target of bomb explosions in which two of them lost limbs and the third survived. Now, we have 28 young men receiving training in Jordan on the security of institutions and personalities. This is to avoid seeking the help of Israeli security men. The police issue has not been settled yet. However, we have to prepare for the police force. Work for this world as if you were to live forever and for the hereafter as if you were to die tomorrow. [saying of the prophet] If I wait until the transition period to form a police force, then who will protect the institutions of the coming phase? Shall I continue to depend on the Israeli Army to protect our Palestinian institutions, or shall I start now and prepare security men from among the Palestinians themselves so that when the transition period begins directly, this force will be ready?

[AL-DUSTUR] What are the tasks assigned to the Palestinian police during the transition period?

[Al-Husayni] The Palestinian police issue is still under discussion. It has not been defined yet. We believe that the Palestinian police must deal with anything related to domestic Palestinian security, in addition to border security. In other words, we should have border security guards, a police force to protect the security of citizens and institutions, and fire brigades. Everything a police force could mean. However, we will not have an army during the transition period. [passage omitted]

[AL-DUSTUR] The Jordanian-Palestinian relationship has been discussed recently. This issue, however, was discussed late and should have been crystallized earlier. What are the horizons of this relationship? What will be its outcome? Why is it currently raised?

[Al-Husayni] First, it is very clear that the proposed solution, whether Palestinian, Arab, or international, is that there should be a confederation with Jordan. The nature of relations between Jordan and Palestine involves geographic and demographic dimensions, so things should be clear from the very beginning if we are to engage in such a relationship.

The peace process may enter a phase that is faster than all our expectations. Therefore, if the steps of this process accelerate, we will find ourselves facing the practical implementation of confederation but without having a practical conception of this confederation, at which time things would be confused. Accordingly, we would be in a position in which we would not know what to do. In order to avoid such things and such relations that could bring tension in the future Palestinian-Jordanian relationship, we should from now on sit together and define the nature of this confederation, as well as the rights and duties of each party.

We also should frankly address all these problems before we are forced to confront them. In other words, let us address these problems in order to solve them before they become complexities. This is because there are important issues that should be resolved.

Mu'awiyah [a celebrated Umayyad caliph] once asked 'Amr Bin-al-'As [a famous Muslim commander]: How astute are you? He answered: By God, I have always known how to emerge out of problems. Mu'awiyah said: I have never encountered a problem.

[AL-DUSTUR] These points have been discussed: The preparation of thousands of Palestinians for the Palestinian security organization, the Palestinian economic investors conference, and the recently formed joint Jordanian-Palestinian committees. These and other issues are part of a planned framework that has a political dimension. Is it possible to regard these steps as part of Jordanian-Palestinian-U.S.-Israeli coordination in view of an ongoing self-rule, or are they mere steps to Jordanian-Palestinian coordination for future purposes? Or are they Palestinian steps and initiatives that are not accompanied by a joint plan to realize self-rule?

[Al-Husayni] It is a purely Palestinian decision to coordinate with Jordan in the first place. If this requires coordination with Israel, there will be such a coordination. If all this also needs coordination with the United States, we will coordinate with them, too. For example, it is we who have decided to form a Palestinian force to protect Palestinian institutions. When we decided to train our youths in Jordan, we coordinated with Jordan so that our youths could leave the occupied territories for Jordan and stay there for two months for training purposes, which Israeli law may consider illegal. So we coordinated with Israel to inform it that we wanted to send 28 youths to Jordan for training and that they would leave via the bridge in an orderly manner.

[AL-DUSTUR] Do you believe that confederation will take place before or after the transitional phase of the self rule, as they call it, and will the bridges be opened during that phase?

[Al-Husayni] If the transitional phase takes place in a proper way—you know that a tree yields fruit after three-and-a-half years, but after five years, you can sell the fruits— the same applies to the peace process. But things may be different if local and international circumstances snowball, starting small and then growing as its rolls, taking everything in its way. If the peace process takes place in one manner and things grow gradually, the confederation will come after a Palestinian state is established. But if matters snowball, we should be ready to deal with that situation and to establish the confederation with minimal problems.

Regarding direct movement under Israel's supervision via the bridge, we should say it will not take place overnight. There will be different steps, facilities, partial withdrawals from Israeli authority, and finally a total withdrawal from that authority.

[AL-DUSTUR] Do you mean that confederation may be accelerated by shortening the transitional phase and if a certain side helps in running the self-rule affairs?

[Al-Husayni] If certain circumstances take place and shorten the transitional phase, we may begin the confederation. So, we should prepare ourselves for that.

[AL-DUSTUR] Does this mean that confederation or any form of union may take place suddenly?

[Al-Husayni] I repeat what I have said. Work for this world as if you were to live forever and for the hereafter as if you were to die tomorrow. If Israel decides to withdraw from certain areas, what will we do? We should prepare ourselves for such a move.

[AL-DUSTUR] In light of Jordanian-Palestinian meetings, including Nabil Sha'th's visit to the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, can we say there may be plans for federation and not confederation, especially since confederation requires two independent states?

[Al-Husayni] What is the difference between confederation and federation? No federation has been able to continue. Confederation is like a period of engagement that may end in marriage, which is federation, or in divorce, which is two states. The best marriage is the one that begins with engagement, and the worst is the one that takes place suddenly. We are thinking about confederation and not federation. [passage omitted]

[AL-DUSTUR] Reports say that Gulf financial aid is linked to progress in the political process. Is this true, and is there any pressure on Palestinians from these states to achieves progress?

[Al-Husayni] We consider these states independent, and they can decide whatever they wish. We will continue to ask for aid, keeping in mind their right to decide yes or no. We will not consider any reports stating that these states' aid is conditional. We will continue to urge these states to support us based on an overall Arab position.

[AL-DUSTUR] Do they make such conditions?

[Al-Husayni] No, they do not.

'Ashrawi on Christopher Visit, Talks Format

TA1907093793 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Interview with Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokesman for the negotiating delegation, by Yoni Ben-Menahem; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ben-Menahem] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, there are indications that the U.S. Administration has adopted a new approach, namely, the U.S. secretary of state's personal participation and shuttle trips to the region. What is your stance on this idea?

['Ashrawi] The issue is not one of a new approach but of substance. Even if the means are changed and different alternatives are used, if the position remains the same there will be no progress. We warned against substituting substance with form. Continued movement does not mean the possibility of progress. What we need is a precise, frank, and comprehensive glance at all the issues that have prevented progress as well as at the real positions that have made the gap between the two sides grow wider.

[Ben-Menahem] You mean there is no benefit to Christopher's visit to the region?

['Ashrawi] The visit by itself is not the aim, but its substance, purpose, and what Christopher intends to achieve from the visit. This is what will affect the negotiating process. We believe that, necessarily, there should be an assessment of not only the U.S. role in terms of its shape, but also of the basic U.S. proposals that have caused the intensification of differences between the Israeli and Palestinian sides.

[Ben-Menahem] As far as you know, does Secretary Christopher have new proposals?

['Ashrawi] They say all the time that these drafts are merely initial ideas that can be changed, but as I have said we need a comprehensive, creative, and bold glance to reassess the entire process. First of all, it is necessary to look at the issue of the form of Palestinian participation, the issue of dividing into stages, and what are these stages and the timeframe. Moreover, there is need for a futuristic, clear, and bold glance at what the the final solution will be. Without a clear and definable goal, it is difficult to work on phased issues. There must be a clear goal and we should work in studied and practical steps to achieve it. In my opinion, the change should be comprehensive and in perception, not a procedural or minor change.

[Ben-Menahem] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, is changing the Madrid format practical today?

['Ashrawi] It is more practical than continuing in a process leading to a slow [word indistinct]. A bold change is essential—a change in the formula not in terms of form or makeup, but in the goal, the timeframe, and the nature of the talks. These talks faced deadlock from the outset. We have lost about two years of negotiations that have failed to achieve anything practical. It is necessary to find real alternatives.

[Ben-Menahem] Give an example of an alternative.

['Ashrawi] For example, one way is to hold parallel talks to solve the final and transitional stages. Another way is to dispense with the transitional stage and work directly on a final solution. Or, to look at the final solution, define it, then work retroactively to achieve practical steps leading to this solution. Moreover, the nature of Palestinian participation should be changed whereby the PLO participates directly and officially.

[Ben-Manahem] There is talk now about forming a confederation between Jordan and the Palestinians. This is an old idea. What is the reason for its revival?

['Ashrawi] First of all, as you mentioned, this is an old idea and has a long political history. The latest development was that in 1991 we entered into the peace process on the basis of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. This agreement stipulates that confederation is one possible solutions. It is a goal that is possible to achieve, but it is based on a relationship of equality and mutual respect for the national identity and sovereignty of each party.

[Ben-Menahem] Meaning a confederation between two states.

['Ashrawi] Yes. We enter into this confederation on the basis of the two peoples' will, freely and democratically. This is a basic issue. Now the technical committees working on this content as well as the higher political committee have been revived in order to look into the political dimensions of this concept.

[Ben-Menahem] Why at this particular time?

['Ashrawi] During the negotiations it became clear that there is a need, first of all, for continuous coordination at all levels, especially on the technical levels relating to water, legislation, cooperation, refugees, and other issues. Secondly, it is essential to clarify the political situation and the final political direction for which we are endeavoring. Clarifying the issue of confederation, first of all, can remove the confusion in people's minds. Secondly, it might clarify issues relating to the negotiations in terms of the final solution, speed up the phased solution, and remove the fears and doubts of the two parties.

Death Threat Received During Interview

TA1907103693 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 19 Jul 93 p 2

[Report by Ora 'Arif and Doron Me'iri]

[Text] A telephone threat against the life of Hanan 'Ashrawi was received in the television studio yesterday, during an interview with her within the weekly Arabic newsreel program. The speaker identified himself as a member of the Kakh Movement.

The six-minute interview conducted by correspondent in the territories Yoni Ben-Menahem centered on political issues. An unidentified person called the studio and told the secretary: "Tell newsreel editor Yusuf Isma'il that the Kakh Movement is going to murder 'Ashrawi now. There is a man with a grenade 300 meters away who will blow up the studio if she does not leave the studio immediately." After delivering this message the unidentified person cut off the call.

'Ashrawi heard this while she was in the studio, and according to eyewitnesses she was greatly alarmed and general panic ensued. The workers immediately called television's security officer, who alerted the police to the incident. Police searches of the area, however, revealed nothing suspicious.

Sources at Israel Television in Arabic suspect that a hostile Arab element, such as Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], was responsible for the threat.

'Abd-Rabbuh on Christopher Visit, Israeli Contacts

TA1907104993 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Jul 93 p A3

[Report by Yosef Algazi]

[Text] In an interview with the Haifa Arabic daily, AL-ITTIHAD, which was published over the weekend, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh declared: "I still do not know what function Secretary of State Warren Christopher's trip to the region is supposed to fulfill." 'Abd-Rabbuh went on to note: "Clearly he will arrive in the region with a proposal for a new American document, which, while incorporating various format changes, will still have the same contents. In this case the secretary's mission in the region will turn into the peace talks' political funeral."

'Abd-Rabbuh, a member of the PLO's Executive Committee and head of its Information Department, resigned from the leadership of Nayif Hawatimah's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] two years ago, and established his own organization which cooperates with Fatah and supports the peace process.

Commenting on the recent reports about secret talks between the PLO and official Israeli representatives, 'Abd-Rabbuh explained: "For a long time, and ever since the Madrid conference, we have been interested in holding an official meeting between the Palestinian leadership and the Israeli Government. However, no official talks have been held up to now. So far, there have been meetings with several Knesset members, such as Efrayim Sne [Labor], but since these meetings were not official in nature, we did not attribute undue significance to them."

'Abd-Rabbuh expressed regret about the remarks made by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, who advocated upgrading the level of the peace talks. He described Sha'th's statements as "exaggerated" and said that they had "caused a tempest in a teacup." 'Abd-Rabbuh noted that "it was an exaggeration to present informal meetings as having great official significance." He asserted that "the exaggerations regarding meetings that were never even held are designed to divert public attention from the intransigence of the Israeli Government, which continues to refuse to resolve the complex issues."

Addressing rumors about Dr. Nabil Sha'th's inclusion in the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations, 'Abd-Rabbuh said: "These are merely aspects pertaining to the

format, designed to obfuscate the fact that the talks have reached a dead end. The problem is not the level of the delegations. The reports on Sha'th's inclusion in the delegation are baseless rumors."

'Abd-Rabbuh claimed that there was absolutely no truth in the reports which claimed that the Palestinians had accepted the U.S. document. "The American document cannot serve as a basis for the talks and we impressed this fact on peace talks coordinator Dennis Ross," he said. 'Abd-Rabbuh also complained about heavy U.S. pressure on the PLO to accept the document.

'Abd-Rabbuh disclosed that there had so far been no discussion about convening the 11th round of talks. "We did not receive any invitation or details about any upcoming round of talks. The issue could be raised after Warren Christopher's trip to the region."

'Abd-Rabbuh described as "positive" the PLO's talks with the Jordanian Government. "We support the idea of confederation, but have yet to get into any details on this matter."

In the interview, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh declared that Knesset Member Efrayim Sne initiated the meeting with PLO representatives and revealed that it was held at an international conference. In response to HA'ARETZ's question, Sne confirmed that he had indeed "exchanged a few words with Nabil Sha'th after we both took part in a panel debate at a UN sponsored conference in London about a month ago."

PLO's Qaddumi Discusses Peace Talks, Boycott

JN1807112593 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0820 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Damascus, 18 Jul (SANA)—Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has emphasized that no substantial progress was made during the last three rounds of peace talks despite U.S. assurances, which preceded every round, that substantial progress would be realized.

In an interview with TISHRIN published today, Qaddumi cast doubt on the U.S. assurances on achieving progress in the successive rounds of peace talks, and said: On the contrary, these assurances produced negative results that conflicted with what was expected from them.

The head of the PLO Political Department criticized the U.S. draft Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles, and said: We rejected this paper because it undermines the principles on which the peace process was based. He said the U.S. Administration is trying to change the rules of the game, and this is totally unacceptable, because acceptance to participate in the peace process was based on principles, headed by Resolutions 242 and 338, land for peace, and the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people.

Regarding Jerusalem, Qaddumi said: This is a central issue in the Palestinian strategy that will never be relinquished. It is the essence of the peace settlement and will continue to be so no matter what pressures the United States and Israel's allies employ on this subject.

Qaddumi urged the United States to be an honest sponsor of the peace process. He stressed that through its conduct the new U.S. Administration has shown its full bias toward Israel although the full partner role requires that the United States forces Israel to abide by the principles of the peace process.

Faruq Qaddumi stressed that the Arab boycott of Israel should continue. He said: No country or two countries alone should make a decision to end the boycott as a result of pressures from here and there. He added: We should not reward Israel before a radical solution is reached to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Qaddumi emphasized that the deportee question is a central issue to the Palestinian leadership. He said there are continuous efforts with international circles to expedite the return of the deportees, and said: This is a daily task that we undertake to influenc the international community in order to do justice to the deportees and expedite their return.

Qaddumi dismissed the argument that Israel is wagering on the Palestinians being the weaker party in the talks. He said: No hostile party can force us to make concessions concerning the national constants and Palestinian rights. He stressed that the Palestinian intifadah will continue and has become part of people's daily life. This places Israel in a political and military dilemma.

Qaddumi stressed the importance of clearing up Arab differences in order to realize the aspired solidarity and activate the Arab position in face of international changes.

Editorial Views Plans for Confederation

TA1607170793 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 16 Jul 93 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "Confederation and Israeli Machiavellianism"]

[Excerpts] The Israeli Government and U.S. envoy Dennis Ross welcomed the decision by the Jordanian Government and the PLO to form a joint committee to prepare for a "Jordanian-Palestinian confederation," considering it to be a positive step that will contribute to advancing the peace process. Naturally, the Israeli-U.S. welcome does not stem from pleasure and delight at seeing any kind of unity between two Arab states. The welcome stems from the conviction that confederation will mean settling the Palestinian problem at Jordan's expense and that within the concept of confederation, the Palestinian refugees will be settled in Jordan. They also want the confederation to be declared as soon as possible because, according to their reasoning, this will

result in "rescinding" the demand for an independent Palestinian state. Thus, Israel and its borders will be recognized by the Palestinians and Jordanians together!

Jordanian and PLO officials are aware of these yearnings. Therefore, Information Minister Ma'n Abu-Nuwwar, head of the Jordanian side to the joint committee, explained that the issue of forming a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation was not on the agenda at present. [passage omitted]

The confederation that the Palestinians and Jordanians are talking about is between two states: Palestine and Jordan. The disengagement decision by Jordan in 1988 came on the basis of a Palestinian demand inside and outside the occupied territories. Some of us considered disengagement a national achievement that would lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state. Undoubtedly, disengagement was a wise decision in terms of highlighting the Palestinian cause and people, the occupation, and the people's representation, but rescinding this decision before the achievement of rights and the establishment of a Palestinian entity will, under the present circumstances, only serve Israel's expansionist goals.

Israel is neither interested in a just and comprehensive solution, nor in a peace based on the principle of land for peace. Israel and the United States are interested in reinforcing the legitimacy of occupation. The only change they are interested in is canceling the word "occupation" and replacing it with "self-rule" or "transitional rule," or any other name that we wish to call this farcical solution.

Although our people are unionist in their culture, ethics, and national tendency, they will not accept a union whose aim is to dilute the Palestinian cause and people. Jordan has asserted more than once and at the highest levels that it is premature to study the plan for setting up a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation and that it is not possible to raise such a plan unless the two peoples can make their choice freely in a referendum. By this, Jordan is declaring unambiguously that it will not seek a solution at the expense of the Palestinians, nor does it intend to compete with anyone over territory, rather its aim is the joint Arab aim, namely, exerting every effort to end the occupation and enabling the Palestinian people to achieve their identity.

'Arafat Congratulates Saddam on July Revolution

LD1707181693 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] The brother president, Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], has congratulated Iraq's President Saddam Husayn on the occasion of the glorious July Revolution.

In a congratulations letter he sent today with regard to this matter, the brother President Abu-'Ammar said: I seize this important occasion to reiterate to Your Excellency our people's deep thanks and appreciation for the fraternal support and continuous backing up that our people receives from the sister Republic of Iraq, its president, and its people to continue our people's just struggle and blessed popular intifadah until achieving victory by liberating its soil and sanctified values from the claws of the oppressive Israeli occupation.

Al-Hasan Cited on Fatah Central Committee Meeting

JN1707140693 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Muhammad Kurayshan dispatch from Tunis]

[Text] The Fatah Central Committee will begin discussing the developments of the current political process today, in light of the U.S. paper that the Palestinians are unanimously rejecting. Central Committee member Hani al-Hasan said that the discussion of the political file will take place with an open heart, as he put it, placing the homeland's interests above all other consideration. He said that all views will be heard and all issues will be discussed. He did not elaborate.

Speaking to our radio, al-Hasan said that yesterday's meeting was devoted to discussing Palestinian national unity. The dialogue committee formed by Fatah to contact all Palestinian groups reported on its contacts in Damascus recently, he said.

Al-Hasan said: "The Central Committee evaluated the results of these contacts and decided to continue them as soon as possible. The dialogue committee requested a paper giving the Fatah views on the comprehensive national dialogue and providing definite answers on issues and problems raised by the Palestinian groups during their meeting with the dialogue committee."

The Central Committee meeting will be attended by 17 of its 18 members. The only absentee is Khalid al-Hasan, also known as Abu-al-Sa'id, who is convalescing in Morocco. The committee is expected to reach a certain level of understanding on most important issues. This will certainly speed up the work of the Fatah Revolutionary Council, which is expected to meet tomorrow or the day after.

PLO Offices Said Transferring to Baghdad

JN1907094093 Al-Shariqah AL-SHURUQ in Arabic 15-21 Jul 93 p 10

[Text] Informed Palestinian sources in Tunis have disclosed to AL-SHURUQ that the PLO leadership recently decided to transfer a major part of its offices and cadres from the Tunisian capital to Baghdad. The transfer is expected to be completed by the end of July at the latest.

The sources said the transfer covers administrative, media, financial, and military offices and is primarily meant to cut spending. The PLO still keeps around 5,000

personnel in Tunisia, despite ongoing scale-down operations, the last of which was the dispatch of 1,500 of its cadres to al-Sarah Camp in the Libyan desert early last June.

The sources added that the Iraqi Government has decided to host about 4,000 Palestinians, taking care of their accommodation and paying them salaries, to help the PLO, which is suffering from a severe financial crisis that worsened considerably in the second quarter of this year. Under the new decision, the PLO will keep the leadership cadres, main offices, and a symbolic number of security and media personnel in Tunisia.

The sources said the move could have other dimensions related to the settlement process and to pressures put on the PLO by the United States and some Arab states. The sources also noted that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat said at a recent meeting that the PLO's "contract" with Tunisia has expired. Therefore, we should look for other arenas, he said. When asked about a contract between the two parties, Tunisian security sources denied anything of the sort, adding that "maybe 'Arafat was referring to a political contract."

Hamas Resumes Dialogue With Fatah in Amman 15 Jul

JN1607095293 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 16 Jul 93 pp 1, 23

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] Muhammad Nazzal, the official in charge of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, in Jordan, has announced the movement has resumed dialogue with the Fatah Movement after a four-month suspension. The dialogue was suspended on 27 March, at the beginning of the ninth round of the Washington talks. In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y, Nazzal said the first round of this dialogue began in Amman yesterday. Fatah was represented in the dialogue by Fatah Central Committee members Hani al-Hasan, 'Abbas Zaki, and Nasr Yusuf, and 'Adnan Samarah, secretary of the Fatah Revolutionary Council. Hamas was represented by 'Imad al-'Alami, Muhammad Nazzal, and Sami 'Abd-al-Fattah.

Nazzal said the Hamas delegation stressed that the dialogue should be strategic, not occasional, to bypass the impasse in the [Washington] talks. He said Hamas stressed to the Fatah delegation that the dialogue should include all Palestinian forces and cover all issues.

Nazzal said the next meeting between Fatah and Hamas has not been defined. However, he expected the meeting to take place after the meeting of the Fatah Central Committee and the Revolutionary Council scheduled to begin in the Tunisian capital tomorrow.

Muhammad Nazzal said discussion at yesterday's meeting between the two movements was devoted to the idea of a comprehensive national Palestinian dialogue. He said basic details related to the dialogue were only discussed. Nazzal said the two parties agreed to holding dialogue at this delicate stage in order to emerge from the crisis facing the Palestine question. He said both parties agreed to continue meetings and consultations to crystallize the appropriate mechanism to embark on a comprehensive national Palestinian dialogue.

Nazzal said that after the three-hour meeting, it was agreed to organize the current political process, reiterate the importance of national Palestinian unity, close Palestinian ranks, escalate and develop the intifadah, and escalate jihad and Palestinian struggle.

The Fatah Movement held several meetings with PLO and non-PLO Palestinian factions at the beginning of this week in the Syrian capital. All these factions called for suspending the peace talks and rectifying the Palestinian track in these talks.

Jibril: Al-'Ayshiyah Attack 'Message' for U.S.

PM1607194593 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Jul 93 p 7

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani: "Ahmad Jibril: Al-'Ayshiyah Operation Message to Washington"]

[Text] Damascus—Ahmad Jibril, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that "the al-'Ayshiyah fedayeen operation carried out by the Front led by Ahmad Jibril on 8 July—which targeted an Israeli convoy deep in the enemy's defenses near the command center of al-'Ayshiyah barracks and during which explosive charges were detonated against the patrol—is a message from the PFLP-GC to the sponsor of the new international order to say that its envoy, Dennis Ross, is on a mission to implement another Camp David in the region, but the attempt will not succeed, and also to stress that the Palestinian territories are for the Palestinian people and cannot be conceded.

Jibril said that the al-'Ayshiyah operation served to confirm that negotiations with 'Arafat and those who are with him do not represent the Palestinian people. He said: By the timing of the operation, we wanted to tell U.S. envoy Ross that Jerusalem will be for the Palestinians only.

Algeria

JANA Cites Press on Operations Against FIS

LD1607192193 Tripoli JANA in English 1822 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Algiers, Nasser [July] 16 JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—In their editions published yesterday, the Algerian press said that the Algerian army's special units were currently using armored cars, helicopters and artillery guns to surround members of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) which they described as 'terrorists' who have gone into the forests in the state of Tizi Ouzou.

The newspapers said that thirty-five members of the FIS were killed by the special forces since the beginning of this month, including six who were killed during the last two days. An Israeli-made Uzi gun was seized, furthermore, after a terrorist group was disbanded in the state of Chlef.

Higher State Council Reviews Conditions in South

LD1907081993 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] The Higher State Council met yesterday under the chairmanship of Mr. Ali Kafi. During the meeting the head of government, Mr. Belaid Abdessalem, presented a review of his visit to the provinces in the extreme south of the country. The Higher State Council expressed the need to develop the areas in the south by adopting the principle of national mutual assistance so as to realize economic, social, and cultural progress.

The Algerian leadership registered the importance of promoting relations with neighboring countries and working toward the establishment of security and stability in the area.

The meeting defined the work horizons in the economic, political, and security fields in light of an overall review of the situation in the country.

Egypt

Musa on Bosnia Talks With Greece, Ross Tour

NC1607143993 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, in Athens, by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd, in Cairo; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-al-Majd] Minister, we welcome you to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Musa] Welcome.

[Abu-al-Majd] First, we would like to ask you about the most important topics you discussed with officials in Greece during your visit on which you chaired Egypt's delegation to the Joint Egyptian-Greek Committee meetings.

[Musa] The Joint Greek-Egyptian Committee addresses every aspect of bilateral relations, as well as political coordination, or at least discussion of problems and issues, such as Bosnia- Herzegovina, the Balkans, Europe, the Middle East peace process, and the situation in the Mediterranean basin in general. We addressed all these issues. In particular, Greece expressed its support for the peace process and the efforts by Egypt, other Arab countries, and numerous international circles to boost the peace process and push it toward success.

We also discussed Bosnia-Herzegovina, on which our position is known. The Greek prime minister and foreign minister affirmed their concern that one ethnic group should not overcome another in Bosnia. The Greek officials said reports of Greek support for the Serbs are not true. They expressed their grave concern over the consequences of disputes extending beyond borders throughout the Balkans. So, talks in this respect were very important, because any upheaval in the Balkans will affect the whole Mediterranean basin, especially the eastern Mediterranean of which we and the rest of the Arab countries are part. A peace process will also promote stability in the region.

[Abu-al-Majd] Minister, clearly, there are essential differences between the Egyptian and Greek stances on the parties in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

[Musa] Yes, yes. Of course there are.

[Abu-al-Majd] What are the most important differences?

[Musa] We clarified this point, but the Greek position was that they do not totally support the Serbs. Our stance is clear: We protest the mismanagement of this issue, the pressure on the Muslims, the aggression on the sovereignty of the state, and the other known positions. We hope these talks have realized their goal of alerting officials to the dangers of the current handling of the Bosnia problem.

[Abu-al-Majd] Minister, do you believe Greece will change its stance on Bosnia-Herzegovina?

[Musa] What I see is great concern over the situation in the Balkans because of the precarious scene in Bosnia. But the Greek stance falls within the EC, so any expected or hoped-for change in position would have to be a change in the EC stance on Bosnia and its repercussions for the Balkans.

The Greek side listened intently to our comments on the dangerous situation there, our strong protests over events, our strong rejection to any racial division at the expense of Bosnia, and the need to protect Bosnian sovereignty, stop the aggression, and withdraw the aggressor forces from territory occupied by force. In addition, we called for stopping the ethnic cleansing and all the other known violations.

[Abu-al-Majd] Did the Greek officials promise to act in light of your discussions?

[Musa] Just today, they declared the importance of realizing a just settlement that is not biased in favor of one side. Otherwise, the settlement will not be permanent. Indeed, there would not even be a settlement, which would make the fears we have been discussing become real.

[Abu-al-Majd] Minister, let us move on to the subject of peace in the Middle East. The process recently concluded its 10th round without progress. Dennis Ross, the American coordinator for the peace process, also toured the region without any suggestions for progress. Could we say that the next stage after the American coordinator's tour will bring something new for the peace process, especially on Jerusalem, the occupied Arab territories, and the Palestinians' territorial jurisdiction over the territories that ...

[Musa, interrupting] I believe there is something new. I hope this tour helped to pinpoint the positions and explain the importance of finding the fixed formulas we discussed, which the Palestinian side submitted and we supported. In addition, there were meetings on the Syrian-Israeli level, that is, the U.S. coordinator met the Syrians and the Israelis. All this could lead to some progress. I am looking forward to my talks in Lebanon.

God willing, I will visit Lebanon. This will be the first visit by an Egyptian Government official to Lebanon for more than 20 years. Lebanon is an important Arab country and a major party to the peace process. There is an independent track for the Lebanese-Israeli talks. All this will provide us with the opportunity to discuss the peace process as well as Lebanese-Egyptian bilateral relations.

[Abu-al-Majd] Minister, are there any specific subjects proposed for discussion during your visit to Lebanon, such as the situation in south Lebanon and the dangers of the Israeli escalation...?

[Musa, interrupting] Of course part of the talks will concentrate on this subject.

[Abu-al-Majd] Will you also fix a date for the meeting of the cordon states foreign ministers?

[Musa] No date has been fixed, but the opportunity will definitely arise to discuss this subject, if and when we meet.

[Abu-al-Majd] Minister, what are the most important ideas Egypt has proposed to bring the Palestinian-Israeli viewpoints closer in light of recent developments?

[Musa] I believe it is not in our interest for me to discuss specific details, because these are courses that have their parties: Palestinian-Israeli, Syrian-Israeli, and Lebanese-Israeli. We prefer to keep things within the framework of the closed meeting for now.

[Abu-al-Majd] Will you meet the Syrian foreign minister in Lebanon as reports have said?

[Musa] This has not been fixed, but I would welcome such a meeting if he is there.

[Abu-al-Majd] Dear brothers, concluding this dialogue, we thank you and thank Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who spoke to us over the telephone from Athens. Thank you, Minister.

[Musa] I thank you.

Mubarak-al-Asad Talks, Ross Visit Assessed

NC1607200893 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 12 Jul 93 pp 1, 4

[Article by Chief Editor Jalal Duwaydar: "Perseverance Will Win the Peace Battle"]

[Text] Arab insistence on waging the peace battle until the end is a policy heralding a new strategy that will lead to regaining our usurped rights and territory.

The Israeli party cannot and will not resist Arab patience and perseverance, both of which are supported by international legitimacy in the form of UN Resolutions 242 and 338.

We should not surrender to Israeli provocation in the form of ideas they will present at the negotiating table, which we know beforehand are unacceptable. We must respond to these ideas by presenting even more provocative ideas, so that we can realize the appropriate formula that befits our dreams, hopes, and demands.

We must remember that one, two, or three years are peanuts to the negotiations, the objective of which is to reach a peace agreement that will end a 45-year-old problem, as President Husni Mubarak said in his joint news conference with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on the conclusion of the Latakia talks.

President al-Asad made me rejoice at his great insight into the nature of the stage the peace process has reached, when he declared that Syria will continue negotiations despite the lack of progress. With his alert and insightful stance and wise viewpoint, he is closing the door on Israel's attempts to break away from the peace assault into which it has been pushed and dragged.

Let it be understood that the Arab side's continuing to attend the peace negotiations means it will never surrender or accept the Israeli viewpoint, which is based on occupying territory.

The Arab strategy in these negotiations adheres to the principle of land for peace, which is supported by the United States, the conference cosponsor. This principle was the basis for the Madrid conference, which established the major lines for the negotiating process.

In these talks, it is natural for the Israeli side to bargain, as usual, for the greatest profit by hampering the Palestinians from obtaining their rights and establishing their independent state. Further, it tries to postpone finding an end to the occupation of the Golan Heights and Lebanon's border strip.

Political circles from within the negotiations point out that this stance is the reason behind the obstacles contained in Israel's idea of limiting the Palestinian authority on territory. This is also linked with the legislative authority, which the Palestinian delegation asks should include everything within the framework of autonomy. Within this framework, the Israelis are also working to exaggerate the issue of the settlements and promote the refusal to discuss the Jerusalem issue.

Undoubtedly, continuous cooperation, coordination, and discussion between Egypt and Syria constitute a very important element in convincing the Israeli side of the importance and need to reach a peace agreement that guarantees security and stability for each country in the region, including Israel.

Proceeding from this perspective, Presidents Mubarak and al-Asad make a point of meeting periodically to achieve this objective. The most recent such meeting was in Latakia at the end of last week.

During the news conference, we noticed President al-Asad's praise for the U.S. commitment to its role as partner in the peace negotiations through its efforts to find common denominators. He did point out that its efforts have not found the necessary response from the Israeli side.

President Mubarak realizes the sensitivity and the extent of the embarrassment Tel Aviv's rulers cause the United States when they discuss the weak point relating to the U.S. influence. In response to a question on asking Washington to pressure Israel, he said no one can pressure any side. He said this does not deny that the American role is important and influential in moving the peace process forward.

This is why U.S. envoy Ross toured the region. He visited Cairo and is currently visiting Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories to activate the peace talks. Within this framework, Ross announced after his talks with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa that there are new American ideas that will be presented to the negotiating parties during his tour.

As Arabs and Muslims, we hope the American role becomes more serious and fair. We hope the American role will prove that the accusation against it of bias and double standards in dealing with international and regional issues is untrue.

Since the American power led the international community in the liberation of the Arab state of Kuwait from the Arab Iraqi invasion, we expect this power to perform the same role toward the Israeli invasion and occupation of Arab territories since the 1967 aggression. We expect it to stop stalling and neglecting its role of leading the international community in deterring the ferocious Serb aggression on the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

We hope the U.S. Administration understands that as long as the Arabs and Muslims feel an injustice has been done to them by the usurping of their rights in response to the conspiracies and interests of other parties, it is like facing a time bomb, which, in the final analysis, will have grave consequences for American interests. In this case, no one will be able to stop the revolution, which will primarily strike global security and stability.

I can claim here, despite every form of Israeli belligerence, that there is an Israeli current backed by a large sector of public opinion, which aspires for a peace agreement that ends the dominant tension and mobilization in the region and stops the bloodshed and economic attrition of over 45 years.

True, there is a psychological and political conflict inside Israel balancing the losses and gains of establishing peace, but it is also clear that there is suffocation and weariness because of the continuing Arab-Israeli conflict. This currently represents an important factor for applying pressure to enable peace to triumph.

Undoubtedly, the peace experiment Israel experienced with Egypt and the concern for maintaining it is clear evidence to support this opinion.

Israeli Foreign Minister Peres' visit to Egypt a few days ago falls within Israeli attempts and moves to rid itself of the complex of fear of peace.

Although it is moving along this course in slow motion, Israel believes deep down that this is the only way to make its presence in the region accepted.

Along with the efforts of the Arab side to win the peace battle through perseverance and to control their tense nerves, they must at the same time work on winning over international public opinion in general and American and Israeli public opinion in particular.

To do this, the Arab side must rely on its being in the right and having the support of international legitimacy.

I don't believe the Arab world lacks the material and political potential and factors to realize this goal.

The only weak point in the Arab stance goes back to the fragmentation, differences, and the absence of trust created by Saddam Husayn's madness and perversion in invading Kuwait.

This totally unjustified aggression harmed the Arab nation's existence and sovereignty. It also contributed toward depleting its resources and power and entrenched a foreign presence on its territory to deter danger and demand protection.

Work to realize peace and restore Arab solidarity must proceed along two parallel lines, since each serves the other.

All the Arab countries must believe that solidarity and Arab power are the only guarantee for us to realize our security and stability now and in future in a world where the shape of the new world order remains unclear, even if power is the axis around which this order revolves.

Paper Questions Usefulness of U.S. Role in Talks

NC1907131993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0613 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jul (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR questions the actual usefulness of the U.S. Administration's full partnership role in the Middle East peace process.

In an editorial today the paper says: No one can deny that there is an appearance of "full partnership" but this has been restricted to occasional visits by U.S. envoys to the countries participating in the peace negotiations and occasional meetings in Washington between U.S. officials and the members of the negotiating delegations. What should matter, however, is the results of this activity by the "U.S. full partner."

AL-AKHBAR adds: More than 20 months have passed without concrete results in connection with the essential issues that the negotiators are discussing. This shows what the "full partner" situation has actually achieved. The process has been revolving in a vicious circle since the end of October 1991.

The paper concludes: Silence over Israel's continuing killings and acts of sabotage, torture, and detention in the territories—which are stepped up whenever the delegations meet in Washington—nullifies the conditions of the U.S. Administration's full partnership role. It also removes the fig leaf that hides Israel's real objective in these negotiations.

Columnist: Dispute With U.S. About Democracy, Rights

NC1707195993 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 8 Jul 93 p 14

["A Word of Love" column by Muhammad al-Hayawan: "Yes, There Is a Dispute With America, But It Is About Democracy and Human Rights"]

[Text] The government newspapers have launched a stinging campaign against the United States in connection with the its treatment of 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman. The papers suggest that the differences between Egypt and the United States have to do with 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman. However, the real Egyptian-U.S. dispute is about democracy, human rights, and the need for Egypt to hold free elections and allow the public to select their own government. The United States wants to see genuine democracy in Egypt, but Egypt will not hear of it.

The dispute with America started a long time ago, but the government has kept it under a tight lid. Afraid of jeopardizing U.S. assistance to Egypt, the government swept the dispute under the carpet, refusing to address it or publicize it.

The dispute went on simmering, however. Although ordinary citizens may not have detected it, a neutral observer of the political situation would have sensed it and could have guessed what it was about and how it started.

At first, the government media began whimpering about an assumed hostility toward Egypt in European and U.S. media. According to the government papers, the latter were exaggerating events in Egypt to undermine tourism and distort Egypt's international image. The Western media were telling lies about Egypt while allowing the likes of 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman to air their opinion and enjoy publicity, the government papers said.

At a later stage, Egypt accused the United States of abetting 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, manipulating him, and hoping to turn him into another Khomeyni. America did not respond to this.

The U.S. media are free from government control. It is clear that there are elements of truth in what the Western media said. We cannot deny that corruption, inept bureaucracy, widespread poverty, and visible repression exist in Egypt. The Egyptian Government, while enjoying its hold in power, has no real sense of responsibility toward the people. It disdains public opinion and would not stoop to pondering the question of constitutional reform.

Then the time came when the government papers began referring to what they called U.S. interference in the internal affairs of other countries. What the government papers did not say was that the United States intervenes everywhere in support of democracy and human rights and that sometimes it supervises elections in other countries to ensure their fairness. The United States also links its foreign aid with the democratic reforms in other countries.

An unmistakable signal as to the nature of the Egyptian-U.S. dispute came when Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa appeared at the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna to declare that nations should not be deprived of their right for development because of their record on human rights. The speech that he gave was simply an impassioned defense of dictatorial regimes and their disdain for democracy.

To know how America thinks, we need to read a summary of a seminar that was attended by a number of international experts and academics with a common interest in democracy.

At that seminar, one expert said that democracy in the Third World is mere window dressing put up by autocratic and totalitarian regimes. He added that the road to

democracy in the Middle East is long and strewn with difficulties. Political, economic, and social change will have to take place, and external support will be needed for the achievement of democracy in the Middle East, the expert said. (The expert in question advocates foreign support to democracy movements in the Middle East.)

Another expert said that the opposition movements in the Middle East exploit Islam in their struggle against the secular regimes. The governments reply with further repression and refuse to make any concessions. (What is remarkable here is that the expert advocates concessions by the secular regimes.)

A third expert said that religion may be an element obstructing progress, but it can also accelerate revival. He bolstered his argument by references to Christian religious groups in Europe and North America.

The experts generally accused religious groups of refusing to hold dialogue with those who differ with them in faith and of disregarding democracy, as the latter is based on free dialogue, persuasion, and the minority's respect for the majority's opinion.

America is thinking, monitoring, studying, and examining. Seminars are being held and free scientific research is under way. So far, the unanimous verdict has been that democracy and free elections are universal needs. This was the matter at the heart of the U.S. dispute with Egypt, a dispute that will not end overnight but will persist as long as the government insists on rejecting free elections. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman may be the current bone of contention, but he is less of a reason for the crisis in Egyptian-U.S. relations than a means by which the government hopes to conceal the truth about that crisis.

Columnist on 'Hypocrisy' of Tokyo G-7 Summit

NC1707194493 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 10 Jul 93 p 8

[From the "Close-up" column by Salamah Ahmad Salamah: "The New World Hypocrisy"]

[Text] The indifferent statement issued by the Tokyo G-7 summit on international issues reveals the extent of these seven countries' failure to fulfill their promises and resolutions and how the new world order has become a sort of new world hypocrisy!

Regarding the Middle East, the statement did not go beyond vague signals that the peace efforts in the region have reached a critical stage while needlessly blessing a continuation of these efforts. It called for ending the Arab boycott of Israel, as if this boycott has prevented Israel from achieving its objectives in the occupied territories!

The G-7 summit last year took a decisive stand toward Bosnia and threatened to intervene militarily if the Serb forces did not stop their aggression against Bosnian territories. But the Tokyo summit this time swallowed all these threats and was content to declare that it does not recognize the conditions imposed by the aggressive Serb and Croat forces on Bosnia's Muslims. It then contented itself with merely noting the continued imposition of economic sanctions without threatening to take any other steps if the UN resolutions are not implemented, as is the case, for example, with Iraq and Libya.

Some reports said that the seven leaders' deliberations delayed the statement for one hour or so because of French President Mitterrand's desire to let the summit take a firmer stand on the Bosnian issue!

But what firmness is this when France and Britain are precisely the two countries that support the Serbs the most? The two countries have played a very ignoble and vile role in deceiving the world, gradually liquidating the Bosnian Muslims' issue, opposing any attempt to enable them to defend themselves, and forcing them to accept whatever the Serbs and Croats impose on them.

Several days ago, the French paper LE MONDE launched a violent attack on a major oil-rich Arab country in defense of what it called human rights. Twenty-four hours later, the French foreign and defense ministers were in that same Arab country to obtain weapons contracts and to sell French tanks that do not find any profitable market in the Arab world. The position taken by the French paper was no more than one of blackmail, intimidation, and hypocrisy!

At the same time, the French foreign minister rejected a demand from the Islamic countries to lift the weapons embargo imposed on Bosnia; a fair demand that has to be accepted since Europe is incapable of implementing its resolutions.

But it appears that the procedure of procrastination, deception, and double standards has become a global one in resolving international issues and problems. Anyone who believes anything about international legitimacy and human rights is naive.

Developing Countries Urged To Coordinate Against G-7

NC1707190293 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 13 Jul 93 p 9

[Editorial: "The Future of the Developing Countries"]

[Text] While U.S. President Bill Clinton emphasized that the G-7 summit was very successful, citing assistance to Russia and progress in trade talks as proof, French President Francois Mitterrand expressed dissatisfaction with the summit's position toward the developing countries, saying that the leaders of the industrial nations failed to devote enough attention to the developing countries, and explicitly accusing the rich countries of taking from the poor more than they give to them.

The Tokyo summit was interested in solving the problems and disputes at the top of the world pyramid without bothering to discuss the problems of the Third World—problems that get worse by the day in favor of the major seven industrial nations. It seems that this was the approach of the G-7 summit toward all the topics that were discussed. Trade among the big countries and attempts to accommodate Russia were given precedence over the volatile issues of the developing countries, whether worsening economic and social situations or internal conflicts and civil wars—problems for which the polices of the big powers during and before the Cold War are to blame.

This underlines the need for the developing countries to coordinate their policies to confront their worsening situations and to take collective positions vis-a-vis the seven major industrial nations, whose position toward the developing countries was described by the French president as "disgraceful."

Vietnamese Official Leaves Cairo for Tunisia

NC1607172893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1424 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 16 Jul (MENA)—Nguyen Dy Nien, Vietnamese vice minister of foreign affairs, left Cairo for Tunisia this afternoon following a two-day visit to Egypt.

During the visit, the Vietnamese official held talks with Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Isma'il Makhluf on recent developments in the Middle East, efforts to stimulate the peace process, and Egyptian-Vietnamese relations.

Brotherhood Leader on Opposition to 3d Mubarak Term

NC1807154593 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 13 Jul 93 p 9

[Statement by Muhammad Hamid Abu-al-Nasr, general guide of the Muslim Brotherhood: "This Is Why We Reject Mubarak's Nomination for a Third Term"; date not given]

[Text] More than two-thirds of the People's Assembly members have nominated Muhammad Husni Mubarak for a third presidential term. Since Egypt's Constitution stipulates that one-third of the People's Assembly members must nominate a candidate and that the nomination must then be approved by two-thirds of the members, the application submitted by two-thirds of the members means that the first step has been sidestepped, the nomination has become final, and that the procedures to follow will be mere formalities.

Members of the People's Assembly from the Muslim Brotherhood, along with their colleagues in the Islamic alliance under the previous People's Assembly, faced a similar situation in 1987, when more than two-thirds of the Assembly members submitted an application nominating President Muhammad Husni Mubarak for a second presidential term. Since the matter was settled and the nomination predetermined, there was no choice but to tell the president about the wishes and hopes of the nation and what was deemed urgent and essential for reforms, stability, and progress for the better. The parliamentary statement made by the then opposition leader and current Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri, whose parliamentary bloc included the Brotherhood deputies, outlined some points, which can be summed up as follows:

1. Calling for the adoption of measures that could consolidate the march of democracy and the rule of law and uphold justice and freedom. This can only be attained by the application of the provisions of the glorious Islamic shari'ah, as God almighty has said: "Follow (O men) the revelation given unto you from your Lord, and follow not, as friends or protectors, other than Him. Little it is ye remember of admonition." [Koranic verse]

2. Calling for amending the articles of the Constitution related to the president and vice president so that they may be chosen by free and direct elections.

3. Calling for an end to the state of emergency, the release of all detainees, and the abrogation of all restrictions impeding the establishment of political groups and parties, publication of newspapers and magazines, or any other measures restraining public freedom and the rights of individuals. Only then can democracy be genuine, effective, and capable of making peaceful changes and uphold the public will.

He who closely examines the affairs of the nation will, unfortunately, find that none of our demands have been met, but rather things even suffered a considerable and serious setback. No serious measures have been made to complete the application of the glorious Islamic shari'ah or to adopt its basic principles as the core of the state's system, its policies, or legislations. Instead, there has been a setback in legislation, school curricula, and in a flagrant way, in the media. The margin of freedom has shrunk greatly to become cosmetic and ineffective. The state of public security has deteriorated, fear has spread, and people no longer feel secure. The gap between the security men and citizens has widened and the majority of people no longer find anybody to shelter them from the authority. The economic balance has been disturbed, thus widening the scope of poverty. A few exploiters have monopolized all the wealth and influence while the vast majority of people have become exhausted and unable to find the bare necessities for survival. Foreign political and economic influence has widened, unemployment has become commonplace, and corruption has become widespread.

Thereupon, we reject th. nomination of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak for a third presidential term, particularly since the nomination is made by a

parliament whose constitutionality is questionable and that does not properly represent the nation. We demand comprehensive and full reforms that can restore stability, welfare, and dignity to the nation and freedom and security for the people, which is indispensable for any cultural, ideological, economic, or social progress.

God is our sole motivator and it is He who guides. May God's prayers be upon our master Muhammad, his kin, and companions. Signed, Muhammad Hamid Abu-al-Nasr, general guide of the Muslim Brotherhood.

Five 'Terrorists' Executed at Cairo Prison 17 Jul

NC1707074093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0722 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jul (MENA)—Five terrorists who participated in the attempted assassination of Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif and other crimes were executed at the Cairo Appeals Court Prison this morning. The five are: Hasan Ramadan Shalqani, Ibrahim Sayyid al-'Ali, Ahmad Husayn al-Husayni, Tariq 'Abd-al-Razzaq Hasan, and Ashraf al-Sayyid Ibrahim.

A responsible military judiciary source told MENA that the execution of the five terrorists began at 0600 and lasted three-and-a-half hours.

He said that with the implementation of the death sentences by hanging today all 14 death sentences passed by military courts in the terrorism crimes referred to them have been carried out.

He added that sentences passed against seven fugitive terrorists in absentia remain to be carried out. The seven, he noted, still have the right to contest the verdicts by filing an appeal to reconsider the sentences within 15 days from the day they are arrested.

The source affirmed that the death sentences against the five terrorists were carried out after all legal procedures were completed. He noted that the terrorists had filed appeals to reduce their sentences within the legal time period and the appeals were rejected within the set time, thus the verdicts became final and mandatory.

The Military Court [word indistinct] passed its verdict on 27 May in case number 11 for 1993, the jurisdiction of the military general attorney in the military criminal department, known as the attempted assassination of the minister of information in which 14 terrorists were indicted. The court unanimously passed a ruling to execute six terrorists, one of whom is a fugitive called Mustafa Hasan Hamzah. The other five, who were present at the hearing, have been executed. [passage omitted]

Admitted To Receiving Foreign Funds

NC1707092693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0830 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jul (MENA)—A responsible military judiciary source has revealed that the terrorists charged with the attempted assassination of Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif admitted during the military prosecution's interrogations that they had received funds from foreign sources to finance their operations in Egypt.

He said the defendants admitted that the funds amounted to $18,000.

'Terrorist' Killed in Attack on Military Police Car

NC1807074493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0714 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jul (MENA)—A terrorist was killed this morning when a group of three terrorists tried to attack a police car near the district of Majra al-'Uyun, south of Cairo.

The three terrorists opened fire from their machine guns on a police car. But the military police forces patrolling the area exchanged fire with the terrorists, shooting and killing one of them. The other two managed to flee toward the cemetery in the area. Police forces chased the terrorists and are currently combing the area in search of them.

Two Arrested in Cemetery

NC1807104693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jul (MENA)—The three terrorists had set up an ambush for a police car near the district of Majra al-'Uyun and hid in the nearby cemeteries. They fired bullets in the direction of the military police car.

Security sources noted that the other two terrorists were arrested and their weapons seized. Policemen and a number of citizens who cooperated with them chased the terrorists in the cemeteries until they arrested them and took their weapons.

The military police car, which happened to be passing by at this moment, was being driven by conscript Corporal 'Atiyah 'Abd-al-Fattah. He managed to dodge the terrorists' bullets. The bullets hit a number of passing civilian and military cars during rush hour.

Muhammad 'Abd-al-Latif Ahmad, a 30-year-old building foreman who witnessed the incident, said it all happened at 0745 this morning. He rushed to his window when he heard gunshots and found one of the terrorists firing in the direction of the military police car while the other was firing in the direction of the civil police car. One of the terrorists was no more than 20 years old. He said he saw him hurling two hand grenades behind the youth center. He was arrested outside the center and taken away in a civilian's car. The other

terrorist was firing gunshots indiscriminately in his attempt to escape. The police officers shot him. He fell down and died under the al-Sayyidah 'A'ishah Bridge.

Another witness said that the members of the terrorist group were wearing black headbands to mourn the execution of the five terrorists who were hanged yesterday.

Police Captain Ahmad al-Baltaji was injured in the incident and taken to Qasr al-'Ayni Hospital. So was police officer 'Ali Muhammad Mahmud, who was taken to al-Khalifah Hospital. No one in the military police car was injured. The car came under fire while passing through the area. It later became evident that an Armed Forces officer, Major General 'Uthman Shahin, commander of the central military region, was riding in the car.

Two communiques are expected to be issued on the incident, one from the Ministry of Defense and the other from the Ministry of Interior.

The name of the terrorist who died today is Muhammad 'Atif. The three terrorists come from Dayrut in Upper Egypt.

A witness narrated how the terrorist was killed. He said the terrorists tried to get to Salah Salim road in an attempt to escape. One of them stopped a taxi cab with the license number Cairo 63250 and forced its driver to stop. The taxi driver managed to call for help from the police patrol he saw in front of him. The patrol shot and killed the terrorist. Some bullet holes were found on the left side of the taxi cab and the windshield and back windows were shattered.

Criminal laboratory experts went to the scene of the incident to evaluate the evidence. It is believed that this was a desperate operation.

Officer Reported Target of Attack

NC1807140593 Paris AFP in English 1348 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Report by Mona Salem]

[Text] Cairo, July 18 (AFP)—Muslim fundamentalist gunmen attacked an army general in the Egyptian capital on Sunday [18 July], sparking a gunbattle in which two people were killed and seven wounded, police said.

The attack came a day after five Islamic militants were hanged.

General 'Uthman Shahin escaped injury when gunmen fired at his car in the southern Cairo district of Old Egypt at the entrance to a highway leading to the suburb of Heliopolis and the airport.

Police said one of the assailants was killed along with a passer-by, while two policemen were wounded.

Four bystanders and an army lieutenant were also wounded, according to the interior ministry, while witnesses said several cars were caught in the cross-fire.

Security forces captured two of the gunmen, who had hidden in a cemetery to attack the general, who is military commander for Cairo and surrounding areas.

But an unknown number of assailants were still on the run, the interior ministry said in a statement, without referring to the attempted assassination of the general.

An official source said they apparently mistook Shahin for another general, Ahmad 'Abdallah, the chairman of military courts which have passed 13 death sentences against Islamic militants.

Five of the militants were executed on Saturday for an aborted assassination bid against Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif and bombings at tourist sites.

Witnesses said Shahin's driver just swerved out of the way in time to avoid the gunfire, but the assailants also fired on a patrol car in the area, wounding two policemen.

One of the attackers hurled two grenades at a local sports centre and fired indiscriminately to cover his escape, they said. But he was gunned down by military police.

The interior ministry named the two captured gumnen as Rajab 'Abd-al-Wakil Shihata, 31, and Mahmud Salah Fahmi, 21.

Both come from southern Egypt, a stronghold of the underground al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [Islamic Group] at the centre of a wave of violence to wreck the economy and topple the secular government, the ministry said.

Hours after the latest hangings, police experts defused two bombs late Saturday in the working-class district of al-Matariyah, northern Cairo. The aborted attacks were also blamed on Islamic militants.

The five hanged convicts were among 22 people condemned to death since October. Their executions raised to 14 the number hanged since May, with the other eight Islamic militants still on the run.

As part of a crackdown on Muslim fundamentalists waging war on the government since March 1992, the five were sentenced in military court like but all one of the 22.

The campaign of violence has killed 171 people, according to an AFP toll, including three tourists. Sixty-six militants, 43 policemen and 59 others have also died, including 30 Coptic Christians.

Under emergency laws in force since 1981, President Husni Mubarak ordered the trials of Islamic militants transferred from civilian to military courts in October for swifter and harsher judgements.

Interior Ministry Source Cited

NC1807145093 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] An official source at the Interior Minister said that at approximately 0830 this morning, some terrorists fired shots at random near the Zinhum morgue in Cairo. Passers-by and the morgue's guards chased the terrorists and arrested two of them. One is Rajab 'Abd-al-Wakil Shihatah, born in Bani Yahya, near Dayrut, and a technical school graduate. The other is Mahmud Salah Fahmi, a high school student born in al-Qusiyah. Another terrorist tried to flee in a commandeered taxi but was shot and killed by the police.

Four citizens, including a woman, were injured in the terrorist incident. Armed Forces First Lieutenant Sa'd 'Abbas Muhammad, who happened to be driving in an Armed Forces vehicle at the scene of the incident, received a bullet wound in his foot while participating in the chase for the terrorists. Police Captain Ahmad al-Baltaji and Sergeant 'Ali Muhammad Mahmud were also injured in the incident. All the injured are now being treated at the al-Manyal Hospital.

Police confiscated two automatic rifles, a pistol, and four magazines belonging to the terrorists. Interior Ministry officials inspected the scene and the Higher State Prosecution Office began investigating the incident. Police continue the search for the rest of the culprits.

'Extremists' Urge Countries To Grant Shaykh Asylum

NC1707192393 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 13 Jul 93 p 1

['Abduh Hasanayn report]

[Text] A responsible security source has affirmed that extremist groups contacted Afghanistan, France, and Sudan and urged them to grant political asylum to Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, spiritual leader of the extremist groups.

The extremist groups are currently holding contacts with certain Islamic countries to pressure Egypt not to receive 'Umar 'Abd-al- Rahman. The groups also asked those countries not to hand over the absconding terrorists.

The security source said that Egypt had held talks with Sudan to prevent the entry of Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman to Sudan. The extremist groups have announced that the Sudanese Government welcomes the shaykh to Sudan. The source stressed that an Egyptian security delegation will leave for Afghanistan in July to receive the fugitive terrorists led by Ayman al-Zawahiri, who is accused of assassinating late President Anwar al-Sadat [as published]. The list also includes Muhammad al-Islambuli and 180 other members, the source added.

Libya

Official: Attempts To Restore Ties With U.S. Failed

NC1707190993 Cairo AKHIR SA'AH in Arabic 7 Jul 93 p 14

[Excerpt] Libyan Foreign Secretary 'Umar al-Muntasir has denied that there is any inclination to tighten the sanctions against his country next month. In an exclusive statement to AKHIR SA'AH, he said that tightening the sanctions will not only harm Libya but some neighboring countries, as well, such as Egypt, Tunisia, Chad, and Niger, and the countries that depend on Libyan oil, particularly Germany, Italy, Spain, and France. He added that Washington has to look for a solution to the Lockerbie case without damaging its interests or infringing on Libya's sovereignty.

Al-Muntasir admitted that his country's attempts to build bridges with the present U.S. Administration have failed. He said: The reason is that the Clinton administration has inherited a number of problems without knowing how to deal with them or reach a solution to them, not the Lockerbie case, but other problems. He added: We have to wait, particularly because it has not implemented any of its programs other than the economic one and has not helped in solving the problems that Clinton inherited from Bush.

Al-Muntasir said that his country agrees to the trial of the defendants in any country other than the United States, Britain, or France. He added: A number of countries have offered to undertake the investigations and trial, such as Malta, Germany, and Canada. We support this and do not reject it. He denied that an offer has been made to try the defendants before a special court formed by the UN Security Council. He said: No such offer has been submitted to us, but there is no objection. We support any trial outside those three countries. [passage omitted]

Foreign Secretary, European Envoys Discuss Crisis

LD1707121193 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1056 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Tripoli, 17 Jul (JANA)—The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has had a meeting with Jacques Rouquette, the ambassador of France to the Great Jamahiriyah. The French ambassador expressed his country's wish to find a logical and acceptable solution to the crisis between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Western countries. During the meeting, the brother secretary stressed the deep-rooted relations between the Great Jamahiriyah and France, pointing out the importance of contacts and consultations between the two countries. The meeting also dealt with the means required to develop and bolster the excellent relations between the two countries.

The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Relations also met with Leon Doyon, the ambassador of Belgium to the Great Jamahiriyah. The meeting dealt with the means required to develop relations between the Great Jamahiriyah and Belgium and the EC countries, and the damage to the EC countries in the event of the unjust sanctions imposed on Libya being continued. The meeting also dealt with the resolutions of the African summit held in Cairo, which support the Great Jamahiriyah's stances regarding the crisis between it and the Western countries.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Zairian Delegation

LD1607110793 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1025 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Tripoli, 16 Jul (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution has received a parliamentary delegation from Zaire headed by Ouman Deneuve, chairman of the Zaire parliament's Foreign Relations Committee, who conveyed to him a message from Zaire's President Mobutu Sese Seko. The message expresses solidarity with and support for the Libyan Arab people, and stresses Zaire's stance, as expressed in the latest OAU summit in Cairo.

The delegation stressed the need for cooperation between the Great Jamahiriyah and Zaire.

Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives

LD1807084593 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0805 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Tripoli, 18 Jul (JANA)—Nguyen Dy Nien, deputy foreign minister of Vietnam, arrived in Tripoli yesterday evening. He was accompanied by the director and deputy director of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry's West Asia Department.

Western Sahara

Talks Between Polisario, Morocco Begin in Laayoune

LD1707204893 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Excerpt] From our international files: A high-level Saharan-Moroccan meeting took place today in Laayoune in order to conduct a referendum in the Western Sahara within the peace process. Representatives from the Polisario and the Moroccan Government have been in consultation since this morning on the issue of reactivating the peace process, but until now not much information has been leaked on this meeting, however, it seems it is progressing on the right track. More details with Zahia Benourus:

[Benourus] The Laayoune meeting was scheduled for Friday [16 July], but due to disputes over the venue it was postponed to this morning.

The Moroccan delegation is headed by the Ahmed Senoussi, Moroccan ambassador to the United Nations, while the Saharan delegation has 12 members, under the chairmanship of Bechir Mustapha Sayed. Of course, this meeting is taking place in the presence of Zada Yaqub Khan, the special representative of the UN secretary general in charge of the Western Sahara file.

Although the Laayoune meeting has officially started, it is almost shrouded in secrecy. All that we know about this meeting up to this hour is that its start was good. This was declared by the Erik Jensen, head of the UN committee in charge of fixing the electoral commission. The two sides have been in consultation since this morning in order to achieve an understanding to permit the clearing of the remaining barriers in the path of the UN peace process in the Western Sahara, which has been stumbling for about two years. [passage omitted]

UN Officials Say Talks Positive

LD1807084393 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Excerpt] The meeting held between the Moroccan and Sahrawi delegations in the Saharan town of Laayoune under UN auspices, which was adjourned yesterday, will resume today. Details of the file from Amal Medah.

[Amal] No information has emerged about the first talks held in a closed session between the two delegations, except that UN representatives described them as positive. Before the talks began, the head of the UN commission for determining the identity of Sahrawi voters read out a statement from the UN secretary general, in which he asks the Moroccan and Sahrawi sides to make a greater effort to settle the Western Saharan problem.

After describing the Laayoune meeting as historic, Butrus-Ghali asked the two parties to the conflict to concentrate on two points: first, no withdrawal from the peace process, whose fruits are awaited by the international community; second, the commitment of the two sides to the desire and right of the inhabitants of the areas they control to self-determination. [passage omitted]

Talks Suspended

LD1807200593 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] The Saharan-Moroccan talks, which began yesterday in Laayoune, have been suspended today. The cause is the demand by the Polisario to negotiate with an official Moroccan delegation, to bestow seriousness on the negotiations. The UN representative, Yaqub Khan, has begun efforts to bring the two sides back to the negotiating table. Madani Amar reports:

[Amar] The Moroccan-Saharan negotiations that began yesterday in Laayoune have not resumed in their scheduled round this morning for reasons that some unofficial sources attribute to the Polisario's attitude that the

composition of the Moroccan negotiating team deprives it of any official capacity. In return, the Polisario is demanding a Moroccan official governmental negotiating team.

Another reason for the halt in the negotiations is, still according to press sources in Laayoune, the presence of Cheikh Mohamed Diaballah, one of the notables of the (Ergebat) tribe in the Moroccan negotiating team, who faces his younger brother Ibrahim Diaballah who is a member of the Saharan delegation.

In the face of this halt, the representative of the UN secretary general in the Sahara conflict, Yaqub Khan, has begun consultations with members of the two delegations to bring them back to the negotiating table, whose main task is to determine the identity of the electorate.

The UN secretary general has sent a message to the negotiators in Laayoune making it clear that the peace process has reached a decisive stage and that both sides should find a means of improving their relations to make it possible to overcome the various obstacles that prevent the actual implementation of the peace process.

Kuwait

Bush Assassination Plot Trial Adjourned Until 4 Sep

LD1707133993 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1249 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 17 Jul (KUNA)—A report by a medical examiner today refuted claims by a defendant in the case of the attempt to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush during his visit to Kuwait of having been tortured by security officers.

The defendant, 'Ali Khudayyir, a 65-year-old Iraqi national, had denied at a previous session of the State Security Court his statements which were recorded during investigation by the prosecution, claiming that he "was forced to make them."

The medical examiner's report, which was read out by the court president, pointed out that the defendant is free from any new or old injuries. The report said that the defendant has an illness as a result of old age.

In another development, the court decided to release the 13th defendant, Nasir al-Mil, on a bail of 500 Kuwaiti dinars. [passage omitted]

The State Security Court decided to postpone the case until 4 September to hear the presentations of the state security prosecution and the defense attorney.

Naval Maneuvers With U.S., Britain Begin

LD1707190193 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] The Kuwaiti, U.S., and British naval forces have begun maneuvers in the country today which will last four days. A Ministry of Defense spokesman announced that the objective of these maneuvers is to develop the combat capabilities and coordination among the naval forces of the three states. A statement issued by the U.S. Navy said that the maneuvers will include the launching of ship to ship missiles, anti-aircraft missiles, and maneuvers in visual and electronic communications.

Finance Minister Appointed Second Deputy Premier

LD1807112093 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Decree No. 1993 amending the decree on the formation of the Council of Ministers issued at al-Bayan Palace in Kuwait on 18 July]

[Excerpt] After examining the Constitution and our decree issued on 12 October 1992, on the appointment of Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent, as chairman of the Council of Ministers, and after examining Decree No. 198/92 on the formation of the Council of Ministers, and on the basis of a submission made by the chairman of the Council of Ministers, we have decided the following:

1. In the aforementioned decree on the formation of the Council of Ministers, the appointment of Nasir 'Abdallah al-Rawdan will be amended in the following way: Nasir 'Abdallah al-Rawdan, second deputy prime minister, minister of finance, and minister of planning.

2. The chairman of the Council of Ministers is obliged to implement this decree and notify the National Assembly. This decree will come into force as from the date it is issued and will be published in the Official Gazette.

[Signed] Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait; Sa'd al- 'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, chairman of the Council of Ministers. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Receives Yemeni Foreign Minister, Salih Message

LD1807224993 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2210 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 18 July (SPA)— The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud received a message from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. The message was delivered by Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah during an audience the custodian of the two holy mosques granted him at his office at al-Salam Palace today. [passage omitted] The Yemeni foreign minister arrived in Jeddah earlier today. [passage omitted]

'Aziz Praises 'Fruitful' Talks With UN's Ekeus

Interim Accord on TV Monitors Reached

JN1907124093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1212 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Jul (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, has described his recent talks with UN Special Commission Head Rolf Ekeus by saying: One can say they are fruitful.

In a statement to INA, he said: We held serious, frank, and comprehensive talks with UN Special Commission Head Rolf Ekeus over the past days. He added: During these talks, we also discussed all the basic aspects of the relationship between Iraq, the UN Security Council, and the Special Commission.

Tariq 'Aziz said: From our part, we explained the issues which Iraq views as essential, issues which have to do with Iraq's sovereignty, independence, security, and the interests of its people, particularly issues having to do with the perpetuation of the unjust embargo on Iraq.

He said: We submitted to Mr. Rolf Ekeus a paper addressed to the UN Security Council and the Special Commission on our stand on these issues, and the relationship between them and the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions.

Tariq 'Aziz added: Agreement was reached to hold high-level technical talks between Iraq and the Special Comission in New York during the next period to discuss the matters that are still pending between the two sides.

In reply to an INA question on the issue of setting up cameras, Tariq 'Aziz said: We reached through the talks an interim solution until the forthcoming talks reach clear results.

Ekeus had held six sessions of talks with Iraqi officials following his arrival in Baghdad last Thursday. The talks ended today.

A meeting was held at the Foreign Ministry Office at 0930 today between Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission. Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf attended. Technical experts from both sides also met to finalize the talks.

INA has learned that Rolf Ekeus and the delegation accompanying him will leave Baghdad for Bahrain at 1700 today on board a chartered plane en route to New York.

Further on Interim Accords

NC1907152393 Paris AFP in English 1439 GMT 19 Jul 93

[By Laurence Chabert]

[Text] Baghdad, July 19 (AFP)—The United Nations and Iraq struck a provisional deal Monday [19 July] on weapons monitoring and agreed on follow-up talks in New York, ending the threat of U.S. military action, the two sides announced.

"We have agreed on an interim solution which appeared satisfactory" to both sides, said Rolf Ekeus, head of the U.N. Special Commission disarming Iraq, after the last of six rounds of talks.

He said Iraq stated it was "ready to comply with the plans for future monitoring and verification" but had not formally accepted long-term monitoring of its arms potential, as laid down by U.N. Security Council Resolution 715 adopted after the Gulf war.

Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, his main interlocutor, said the two sides agreed to hold further "high-level technical talks ... in New York."

The negotiations in Baghdad had been "serious, frank and comprehensive," he said, quoted by the official news agency INA. "We have during them dealt with all the essential aspects" of Iraq's relationship with the United Nations.

"We have from our side clarified the issues that Iraq considers essential, namely the issues concerning Iraq's sovereignty, independence, security and interests of its people," especially the three-year-old trade embargo, he said.

Iraq had given a "position paper" to the Security Council.

Ekeus did not elaborate on the provisional agreement, but said it brought to an end the crisis provoked by Iraq's refusal to allow the installation of long-term monitoring cameras at two missile test sites.

"I don't see any crisis after these talks," said Ekeus, who arrived Thursday in a last-ditch attempt to avoid fresh U.S.-led air strikes against Iraq. "We have come out of the vicious circle."

Washington had threatened to attack if Baghdad refused a deal on long-term monitoring of the al-Yawm al-'Azim and al-Rafah test sites, 60 kilometers (40 miles) south of Baghdad.

Six Iraqis were killed last month when U.S. warships fired cruise missiles on intelligence headquarters in Baghdad in retaliation for an alleged plot to assassinate former U.S. president George Bush.

However, Ekeus sounded a note of caution: "There remain a serious number of unsolved issues. We will

address them in two ways: continuous vigorus inspection activities, and high-level technical talks."

A new inspection team would be dispatched to Iraq next week. "I would not say there is a clear-cut agreement but they are on a way to break out of that quite dangerous situation," he said.

Baghdad has insisted that no long-term monitoring could take place before the lifting of the crippling embargo, in force since the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

In five days of intense negotiations, Ekeus met 'Aziz and Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, as well as an official in charge of negotiations with the United Nations on a possible resumption of limited Iraqi oil exports.

Asked about the possibility of lifting the embargo, Ekeus noted Iraq was required not only to comply with the ceasefire resolution but to accept its border with Kuwait and other U.N. terms for the Gulf war ceasefire.

Ekeus said there was an "indirect link" between the talks on weapons monitoring and negotiations for the resumption of oil sales.

Iraqi negotiators last week suspended the talks with the United Nations aimed at allowing Iraq to sell 1.6 billion dollars worth of oil to allow for consultations with Baghdad.

Iraq has so far argued that the U.N. terms infringed its sovereignty.

Details of 'Aziz-Ekeus Negotiations Provided

Third Round Held 16 Jul

JN1607193393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1914 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Jul (INA)—Iraq and the UN Special Commission resumed their talks at the Foreign Ministry this evening.

Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, chaired the Iraqi side while the UN Special Commission side was headed by its chairman Rolf Ekeus.

At the end of the third session of talks, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz told INA that it is too early to assess the nature and results of the talks between Iraq and the UN Special Commission.

Tariq 'Aziz said the talks between the two sides will continue.

UN Special Commission Chairman Rolf Ekeus also told INA that the talks will continue.

INA has learned that the third session lasted three hours.

Ekeus Tours Chemical Site 17 Jul

JN1707184493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN Security Council's Special Commission, returned to Baghdad this afternoon following a visit to a chemical site outside Baghdad. Ekeus voiced satisfaction with the results of his visit.

No talks between Iraq and the Special Commission were held today because of the 25th anniversary of the glorious 17-30 July revolution. The talks between the two sides are scheduled to be resumed tomorrow.

Fourth Session Held 18 Jul

JN1807180593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1735 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jul (INA)—Iraq and the UN Security Council's Special Commission resumed talks at the Foreign Ministry today by holding a fourth session. The Iraqi side was headed by Tariq 'Aziz, member of the Revolution Command Council and deputy prime minister, and the UN Special Commission side was headed by Rolf Ekeus.

Following the meeting, which lasted about an hour, Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf told INA correspondent that it was premature to comment on the nature and results of the talks held with the UN Special Commission's Delegation.

He pointed out that another session would be held this evening. Rolf Ekeus told INA that the talks between Iraq and the Special Commission would continue. He said: We are continuing the talks.

Fifth Round Lasts Until Midnight 18 Jul

JN1907052793 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0300 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Iraq and the UN Special Commission held a fifth session of talks yesterday evening. The session lasted until midnight.

The Iraqi side was headed by Tariq 'Aziz, member of the Revolution Command Council and deputy prime minister, while the UN Special Commission delegation was led by Rolf Ekeus.

INA has learned that the two sides agreed to resume talks this morning.

Ekeus: Talks 'Heading in Positive Direction'

JN1907075393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0650 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Jul (INA)—Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN Special Commission, has said that his stay in Iraq depends on finishing the current talks with Iraqi officials to reach results.

In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH published today, he said that after his visit, he will submit a detailed report to the Security Council on the results of his talks.

He said his talks with Iraqi officials are heading in a positive direction, saying it is premature to talk about final results.

Ekeus declined to reveal the points on which progress was made. He also did not spell out the issues which needed further talks to reach satisfactory solutions. He said more talks will be held with the Iraqi side.

AL-THAWRAH Criticizes Ekeus, Urges Dialogue

JN1607120793 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1055 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] In today's issue, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH publishes an editorial entitled: "Our Rights Are Clear; Our Determination Unbreakable". The editorial says:

The United States and its allies adopted a fierce and aggressive policy against our country years before the so-called Gulf crisis. This policy was represented by hostile measures that resulted in a siege around Iraq in early 1990. The United States then exploited Gulf events as a pretext to carry out its plan, drawn up in the cellars and lobbies of U.S. policy where Zionist diehards and protectors have set themselves the task of destroying any legitimate Iraqi aspirations to build Iraq's own strength to defend its sovereignty and realize the aspirations of its people and nation.

Iraq is completely convinced that this stand was prompted by evil grudges against Iraq. These have exposed the double standards of the United States and its Western allies, especially concerning human rights. Their false concern about these rights, despite the fact that they are trampling on these rights in Iraq and in all Third World countries, is seen in their insistence on continuing the unjust embargo on 18 million Iraqis for more than three years. Iraq, however, is adhering to the UN charter, which the United States and its allies have violated. Iraq has adhered to implementing the UN Security Council resolutions despite their harshness and their contravention of the UN Charter and the norms of international dealings.

Iraq has completely implemented what was required of it in accordance with the notorious Resolution 687, by the direct admission of those whom the United States appointed to supervise the implementation steps. Rolf Ekeus has announced more than once to world media that Iraq implemented 95 percent of its commitments as spelled out in Resolution 687. Is it reasonable for him and those who stand behind him to cling to the remainder of the resolution, that is 5 percent, just to be able to declare that Iraq has not met its commitments and, therefore, the embargo will continue?

This justification by Ekeus is untenable. His aim is to dissociate himself from the commitment enunciated in Resolution 687 that commits the Securicy Council to lifting the embargo immediately in exchange for this Iraqi commitment.

Adhering to this false pretext, which is not based on any logical or legal justification, is just a device the Security Council can use to evade the implementation of its commitment. This is a duty that cannot be shirked. World public opinion and our people in Iraq and the Arab homeland have realized the hostile aims behind which Ekeus and the allies are trying to hide to indulge in implementing their criminal hostile plot against our country.

Therefore, Mr. Ekeus, who is discussing a crisis they themselves have fabricated, must be frank with us and true to himself. Through the positions he will take during his presence in our country, he must clearly show us if he is a war criminal—who has come to exacerbate the crisis fabricated by quarters controlled by the United States and its allies—or if he is a peace advocate who seeks to acknowledge Iraq's legitimate right and the justness and objectivity of Iraq's position in order to end the crisis and implement the obligations stipulated by UN Security Council Resolution 687—by which Iraq has abided, implementing the clauses of that resolution that concern it.

We say very clearly and frankly that the threat to use the modern weapons, warplanes and missiles the United States and its allies possess will not terrorize Iraq and its people. The United States has tried all the weapons it has in its arsenal and was unable to deter Iraq from adhering to its legitimate rights and defending its people's sovereignty and pride. This is because the Iraq position is based on right and justice and draws from the strength of its people and their deep-rooted civilization the absolute belief that it will definitely triumph, and that the banners of Allahu Akbar [God is great; the Iraqi flag] and the Mother of Battles will always wave.

At the same time, we are prepared for an objective and constructive dialogue if Ekeus has come to Iraq with new proposals that will give Iraq its legitimate rights and oblige the other party to fulfill its obligations, as clearly stipulated in the resolutions they have issued, particularly Resolution 687.

Otherwise, it would be stupid to think that the leadership in Iraq will relinquish its people's right and future to open the doors for the schemes of Zionism and the interests of its tyrant allies to infringe on the sovereignty and pride of Iraq and the Iraqis. This is the last thing Ekeus, or anybody else, should dream of.

Victory will inevitably be for Iraq and its wise leader, Saddam Husayn. Shame and disappointment to the tyrants, enemies of the peoples.

Baghdad 'Ready To Talk'; U.S. Said Muddling 687, 715

JN1707170993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1437 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Jul (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH has called on Rolf Ekeus, UN Special Commission president, to repeat his previous certification that Iraq had fulfilled obligations stipulated by UN Security Council Resolution 687. The paper called on Mr. Ekeus to sincerely work toward the immediate lifting of the economic sanctions.

An article in today's AL-QADISIYAH recalls a remark made by Ekeus to Swedish television back in January, when he pointed out that Iraq has fulfilled 95 percent of its commitments. The paper wondered whether Iraq has not delivered on the remaining 5 percent in the past six months.

If Ekeus wants peace, the road there is open and passable, but if he wants to be an advocate of war, he will go down in history as one.

Iraq, AL-QADISIYAH goes on, is ready to talk, but is not about to surrender its rights or destiny to the Zionist movement and its allied tyrants. Rallying behind Saddam Husayn, the Iraqi people have had enough experience in tackling the tyranny, aircraft, and missiles of the United States, and thus will not cave in to any threats.

The paper ridiculed the American-Atlantic-Zionist alliance's human rights rhetoric, which AL-QADISIYAH asserted, it uses as cover for ulterior motives. The Western alliance's idea of human rights is the unwarranted destruction of Iraq's infrastructure, the murder of its people, and a most terrible blockade of its 18 million-strong population, the paper said.

The United States and its allies are mixing up UN Security Council Resolutions 687 and 715, providing for future surveillance of prohibited materials, both of which Iraq abided by. However, Iraq will continue to stand up to attempts to subjugate and insult it.

Saddam Husayn Speaks on 1968 Revolution Anniversary

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[Speech by President Saddam Husayn on the 25th anniversary of the 17-30 July 1968 Revolution; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Moses prayed: Our Lord! Thou hast indeed bestowed on Pharaoh and his chiefs splendor and wealth in the life of the present, and so, our Lord, they misled men from Thy path. Deface, our Lord, the features of their wealth, and send hardness to their hearts, so they will not believe until they see the grievous penalty. [Koranic verse]

O great mujahid, steadfast people. O stalwart men in our valiant Armed Forces. O faithful mujahidin and strugglers. O virtuous people in the Arab nation. O believers in the domain of Islam and among the entire humankind. Peace be upon you.

On this blessed day every year, we recall and celebrate the day jihad and struggle began in their new field when the glorious 17-30 July Revolution and its great principles triumphed in its first chapter until it has become today, as we celebrate its 25th anniversary, a minaret for freedom, a citadel for steadfastness, and a symbol for the principles of jihad.

On this day, as on previous occasions after the start of the major battle, the immortal Mother of Battles, we do not recount or give figures on the achievements of the revolution and its triumphant march. These have generally become very clear to all. Rather, we start our speeches by greeting the martyrs of the nation and great Iraq, as well as the revolutionaries. We then emphasize the meanings that have transformed the revolution and its original principles from a mere genuine national revolution to a revolution with achievements and meanings that sets an example for the entire nation and humankind, wherever intentions agree on freedom, independence, virtue, liberty, fairness, justice, sincere amity, and wishing goodness and peace for all of humankind. We also emphasize the meanings that made the mujahid steadfast, faithful people of Iraq not kneel to anyone but the Almighty, the one and only, and to respond only to what is genuine and legitimate in their relations with peoples and nations.

The Iraqi people reject any humiliating means, any method of delusion and disgrace, or any trick that affected other peoples and nations to the point that it made them step down from a position that was the subject of pride for those peoples and nations in order to roll over under the pressure, aggression, and deception of the unjust coveters. This is in order to fortify and further strengthen our people, God willing, to supply them with a clear view of their duties and rights, to aid our nation with the necessary views and stands on the road to awakening and salvation, and to contribute something to mankind that will save it from its stifling ordeal, while confronting the tyrants of the age who, through their reckless and evil policies, lost every meaning of goodness, peace, and security, and all respect for peoples and their wills.

Brothers and friends, more than 1,400 years ago, infidelity, injustice, and oppression sank to the lowest level of bad acts—so far that it agitated those unable to protect themselves and human rights in a life that God Almighty wanted to consist of worship of the one God and of work that pleases Him and angers the infidels and wrongdoers.

The most prominent examples of tyranny, might, injustice, and aggression on the international level at that time were two powers; namely, the Byzantine Empire in the West, and the Persian Empire in the East. They used to have their own followers—lackeys—and those who used to strip away peoples' possessions, out of ambition or fear of the tyranny of oppressors. Infidelity and oppression reached their peak. A confrontation was inevitable between the strongholds of the tyrants of infidelity and oppression and mankind's humanitarian nature, which believes in the might of the merciful God.

So after the despot's oppression and aggression had overstepped all limits, spheres, norms, and constants, faith emerged to counter him in the fields and the squares, as willed by God. God Almighty willed that this battle would be in His name and that a noble Arab prophet would be the caller and commander of this battle, as is the case every time. The prophet of mercy, guidance, justice, and fairness was born. Following his birth, there was the heavenly decision to entrust him with the task of carrying God's message to Earth and mankind. By choosing Prophet Muhammad, God's peace and blessings be upon him, Arabs were chosen as angels of faith and the progenitors of the message, carrying it to all mankind with the responsibility of the faithful mujahidin.

The battle began, requiring the faith of those forming the substance and pillar of the honest base. When Medina and Holy Mecca believed in God after choosing the right direction, the march began outside the land of Hejaz. It collided, as willed by God, with the world forces of oppression. The oppressors' thrones collapsed on the international level, after the thrones of local tyranny withdrew from the field, opening the way for the base of faithfulness so that the call for Islam could begin strongly and soundly, led by the Arabs and comprising everyone who resigned himself to God and embraced Islam as religion.

After all the ordeals and injustices through which mankind and the Arabs have passed at this point, nothing is more indicative of the level reached by tyranny and corruption among the Arabs themselves, and against them on the international level, than their current situation and the transgression, injustice, and disintegration coming from their ranks and from others—enemies of God and mankind—outside their ranks.

The tyrant's oppression, disintegration and aggression have now reached their peak. Hence, it has now become a duty to history for the faithful to reach the level and degree necessary to remove the covers of the centers of oppression, tyranny, corruption, decadence, and aggression and reveal the truth and push it to the abyss of collapse, God willing.

Oppression has overstepped every limit and boundary. It is high time for justice and faith to overtake oppression at every limit and on every field so that God will allow what He willed in order to deliver the faithful.

In the end, we deliver our apostles and those who believe. Thus is it fitting on our part that we should deliver those who believe! [Koranic verse]

O Arabs, guardians of faith and its great source and bearers of the torches of messages and calls and principles of the God of heaven and the earth. O true faithful wherever you are. When Almighty God gave His order that Muhammad would be the prophet of God and the last the of prophets and messengers, He thereby did not end the jihad of the mujahidin in defending true values and great principles. He communicated with his messengers to humanity. He entrusted this to you, whenever your call is true and your faith in your role seeks only to protect the principles of the God of heaven and Earth. Spread justice, equality, and fairness. Deepen the requirements of virtue. Confront injustice, oppression, and tyranny.

Those who represented injustice and tyranny in the confrontation with early Islam were international symbols, such as emperors, khosraus [Persian kings], Byzantine and Persian leaders, as well as local symbols of polytheism, injustice and infidelity, such as Abu-Lahab [Muhammad's uncle who opposed Islam] and others.

Today, the symbols of injustice and tyranny, who take the same old failed paths for evil purposes, are the centers of injustice and infidelity, represented by America, its allies, and those who are subservient to its schemes and who follow its road.

The schemes of this group of tyrants seek to undermine the spiritual structure and obliterate the components of the spiritual and cultural respect and the heritage that protect the faith of mankind, constitute the pillars of his virtues and good conduct, and lay down the foundations of civilization and development. This spiritual and cultural respect and heritage strengthen the faith in the hearts of people and secure mankind against the despots' invasion, immorality, aggression, and evil.

In view of this, the jihad of any faithful group on the path of resistance to establish these principles is—in terms of its spirit and meaning—an authorization to carry the message and principles of God on earth. O Arab mujahidin whom God has chosen, proceed on this path in order not to miss this honor; otherwise, all you zealous believers and all honest Muslims will sin if you do not carry out your duty.

Let this be your slogan to move and prod every living conscience and the truly faithful heart: Alas Arabism, alas Islam, alas our tortured humanity, wherever destiny and struggle share the principles of monotheism, justice, equality, and resistance to tyrants.

O chivalrous Iraqi men and glorious Iraqi women, Almighty God wishes you well, so that, by your jihad, your patience, and your models of dedication, zeal, and valiant resistance to injustice and tyranny, you will represent a small faction resisting a wrong faction, although they are greater in number. God also wants to

stress the essence of His address to His noble Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and blessings be upon him: How often, by God's will, has a small force vanquished a big one. God is with those who steadfastly persevere. [Koranic verse]

Certainly, it is a great honor for you to be singled out by God and given this attribute. You should take pride in the status humanity has attained—which is now the highest example for all mankind and for the sons of your nation from the Atlantic Ocean to the Arabian Gulf. Consider, also, the principles of national rights to sovereignty, liberation, and independence, and the aspirations of humanity for a decent living in which your humanity is not humiliated, your honor is not impaired, and, God forbid, no disgrace of surrendering to the injustice of tyrants shall be ascribed to you. This attribute is a title of faith and great honor for you, Iraqis, that makes whatever you endure—as a result of the intransigence of the treacherous and the injustice of aggressors—unequaled medals of faith and national martyrdom before the world and humanity, and a genuine pan-Arab stand our nation will adopt as a model, as an example, and as criteria that cannot be overlooked by all those who rise to power and defend the principles of true patriotism, humanity, nationalism, and honor, as well as any call for linkage in faith or blood with righteous forefathers.

It is a great honor, without which there is no way for us to keep open the doors to the future, in which pride may be coupled with the greatest, most honorable, and most immune opportunities for prosperity. Additionally, we must treasure the present, which sets a bright example for all humanity. It has become a catalyst promoting its jihad and struggle to the level that qualifies anyone who would identify, in his conscience, in his resolve, in his psyche, and in his mind, the requirements to observe proper caution and work properly to protect his homeland, the people of his homeland, and the people of his nation from the plans of the malicious parties who are targeting every living and meaningful thing. This could lay the groundwork for the necessary moral considerations and the prerequisites of civilization in which nations will respect themselves and other nations.

At present, this is a unique honor for you, O zealous Iraqis. Your partner and support within the single nation and on the road of the same fate are the stone-throwing people, the mujahid and patient Palestinian people. You will have the tallest and most brilliant banner of faith. This banner will be shaped in accordance with the size of its overall brilliance and its constancy. Every valiant resistance against tyranny will be a partner or a support for you, wherever it is found within the ranks of humanity. Such resistance is identifiable wherever steadfast people hold out; wherever resistance elements of our nation carry out acts of resistance to oppose acts of injustice, agentry, treason, and subservience; and wherever humanity and the honorable nationalistic regimes resist hegemony, tutelage, aggression, and invasion, from Somalia to Cuba, gnawing at the fences of U.S. imperialism.

Resistance is also seen whenever national honor, as well as the minimal requirements of nationalism and humanity, are stirred, even if this were to be within the ranks of the very Westerners.

O sinful aggressors, associates of the devil, O weak and misled people wherever you may be, the era of faith, virtue, and steadfastness in the face of adversity, which serves as prelude to a model historic act that should be emulated to put faulty things in their proper order, has not ended with the end of the prophets because God Almighty, who stands above all, is undying.

The era of the messengers who were chosen by God and charged with the task of delivering His message has ended after Muhammad, peace be upon him, the noble prophet and the last of messengers and prophets, died. Faith, virtue, and, more importantly, God's care and support for fairness and justice has not ended.

The virtues of faith, patience, and ability, and the spirits of setting an example and making a sacrifice are no longer demonstrated only by a prophet chosen by God to follow the path of virtue and good deeds. These values, along with their meanings and objectives, are now spread among the entire human race and among all peoples and nations. They are demonstrated by peoples and nations through an interaction between all the good qualities, even if they are found in small quantities here and there among a certain mass of people, to defeat tyrants.

Even if there is no individual who can alone defeat a pharaoh, like Moses, peace be upon him, has, with God's support, defeated before. Any people—when they recall the requirements of faith they need and when their jihad interaction reaches the necessary level—can defeat any khosrau, like the early Arab faithful mujahidin did during the era of Caliph 'Umar Bin-al-Khattab, God's blessings be upon him. Any good, faithful group can start on that path.

The characteristics of prophets originated from the sources of the good characteristics of peoples, nations, and persons—from each one as much as God Alimighty has granted him in terms of position, degree, and effective action. So, any historic, powerful, faithful, militant, and patient action is tantamount to a prophet's action, God willing. This is how the Iraqi people understand their role toward themselves and their nation in this age of unjust tyrants. Based on these principles, the foremost being strong faith in God's ability, the believers in the Iraq of jihad, virtue, and patience carried the banners of jihad, fighting, construction, and patience in the service of Iraq, the nation, and mankind. As a result of this faith and the resolution it requires, thrones decayed by corruption, injustice, and tyranny will collapse here and there. God's throne will remain clear to everyone and will last forever, until it will be the only throne. The Iraq of the believers will remain lofty and healthy, enjoying the meanings of faith, pride, and the sincere and faithful jihad. It will continue to be the highest example of all those who opt for salvation from the tyranny of the devil,

wherever that may exist, regardless of its name, acts, and nationality. Iraq will always play its great role in leading struggle and upholding faith, jihad, virtue, and obstinate, effective, and patient action for the sake of right and the preparations it requires to play its role and achieve its great objectives.

Based on this faith and on ideal historical examples, Iraq realizes this path is difficult. It is a path of sacrifices. Nevertheless, it is parallel to virtue, glory, and pride. It is a gateway, if God wills, to immortal paradise, when the faces of oppressors, traitors, and renegade hirelings will be disgraced after being plainly disgraced in our world, beginning with the first step taken by those disgraced by God on the path of evil, uninterrupted by any sincere repentance or forgiveness.

After all their tough experience with Satan's international circles, the Iraqis realized there is no alternative to rightly choosing their path without hesitation and that the patience and actions of the true mujahidin are the right entrance to this path and to protecting it. The Iraqis, along with all honorable believers and the true, struggling mujahidin, have realized that fabricating pretexts by some despot, using henchmen and hirelings in any claim or action conducive to harming Iraq and its life programs, is an act that will not result in a decision by those despots and hirelings. Such an act can be checked so Satan's ideas can be confined to their chests and not evolve, under some pretext, into cowardly destructive acts against an edifice of life constructed by the Iraqis with pure sweat after having shed chaste blood in struggle and jihad.

The Iraqis have realized that the mass killings by the continuing unjust embargo will not end unless they stand against all factors of weakness created by dependence, mere hope, or by begging for a step from the centers of disgrace and crime in submission and capitulation.

After relying on God, the Iraqis endured all this to embark on a new stage of jihad, patience, and faith. The Iraqis will share whatever they have in order to make their common action a success, just as they shared virtues and the results of their joint jihad before God, history, and the present. Their present time will certainly be crowned with victory and become a source of pride. Their future will safeguard the principles that represented their difficult choice in order to occupy a high position in their life and in the afterlife, God willing.

O glorious Iraqi men and women, God Almighty will always lead us to what is new and effective until the stage of patience, jihad, and confrontation achieves its great objectives, even if this requires additional sacrifices. God Almighty will lift the detriment inflicted on us, as it was inflicted on God's prophet Job, peace be upon him.

God is on our side. He can do whatever pleases the believers in light of their faith and honest efforts. He will grant us victory over the infidels and pave the path before us, so our friends will be pleased and our enemies will be angered, God willing. The enemies of God and virtues, idols of the modern age, and the traitors of principles and great values in our nation will be oppressed.

A twisted rope of palm-leaf fiber will go round the necks of all the evil ones who will fall to the abyss they deserve, and the hands of Abu-Lahab will perish. Perish the hands of Abu-Lahab; perish him. No profit to him from all his wealth and all his gains. Burnt soon will he be in a fire of blazing flame. His wife shall carry the crackling wood as fuel. A twisted rope of palm-leaf fiber around her own neck. [Koranic verses]

Brothers, friends in the world, there is a persistent problem in today's world and, particularly, in the relationship between the United States and the Arabs. It seems to us now that the United States has made a final linkage—as a result of the influence of the Zionist lobby and the shortsightedness of influential persons in it—between the so-called U.S. interests in the Middle East and a special description it wants to give to Israel's capability in light of its expansion policy and influence at the expense of the Arabs—lands, sanctities, security, and development requirements.

The collapse of the Soviet Union and the increasing subservience of the Saudi and Egyptian regimes and known countries in the region that follow them in this and other policies have made the United States feel that it can now achieve its purposes in accordance with its plans.

The other problem is this strange and denounced U.S. stand: The only difference between the United States and this or that country in terms of view and behavior vis-a-vis social, economic, and political assessment, even in terms of this view vis-a-vis the traditions of societies in the Middle East, including the role of Islam, the level and method of faith in it, and the acts toward it and through it, is considered by America so serious that this prompts it to make plots and embark on aggressions.

These feelings of arrogance were intensified by the disintegration of the other counterpole—the former Soviet Union—and the lack of a clear role by Europe, China, and Japan, either as a group or as individuals, each according to its own views and means and to the weight and kind of its interests in the region.

We believe that tyranny, or unipolar control of the world, cannot continue for very long. This view is based on our spiritual and historic faith. Additionally, our absolute belief that God is capable of granting victory to the believers does not annul our interest in analyzing phenomena and making a link between them and in drawing conclusions out of what we see and deduce through the foresightedness acquired from faith and jihad toward all this.

We have said on more than one occasion and reiterate today that the interests of the big and superpowers may meet, but, at the same time, they are bound to differ and diverge, too. This is so because Japan, Europe, and

China each have their own peculiar characteristics that lead to peculiar interests and concepts. Therefore, they are bound to differ with the United States in concept and policy, especially after the U.S. rulers have attained a certain level of megalomania and expressed a lust for domination and single-handedness. In all cases, the historical, geographic, and cultural background of each of these states will certainly constitute its depth and incentives in both concept and policy. Hence, the historical background that has bound Europe to the Arab homeland for more than three centuries, as well as the intermingling of European-Arab interests for a long time, including cultural relationships and geographic proximity to the Mediterranean countries and others beyond them. Japan and China, which belong to the Orient, are bound to produce their own concept and policy toward the Middle Eastern issues, but the question is: When and how? The future will answer this. It is certain that development in the policy of the Middle East and the stands of its peoples, as well as the results of their great jihad, will all play a serious role in shaping the policies of Europe, Japan, China, and other countries, as well as the limits of arrogance and hegemony of the U.S. concept and policy.

Responsible Arabs in power, including those who committed serious mistakes in the past stage, should ask themselves sincerely and bravely, and each of them should answer sincerely and accurately, even if the answer is only to themselves: Is it better for them to promote the interests of the foreigner the way he wants them to, with what accompanies that in terms of losses, including huge amounts of squandered money, and to bear what this entails in terms of the dangers of isolation from their people and nation, instead of promoting the interests of the nation at any minimum acceptable level—a level that is above the state of deterioration and along the path of truth? This also requires extending economic aid to the sons of their nation. Thus, they can secure the nation and their people, along with the resulting great pride and feeling of affiliation to the people and the nation.

It has been proven in many world spots that foreigners most often seek to promote their own interests everywhere in the world by speaking of what they call ties of friendship with states and regimes. However, when they have growing convictions that these ties of friendship have become burdensome, or not as clearly beneficial as they want them to be in the future, they most often abandon these ties of friendship in favor of new powers, including those who stand for the future more than others. They might also abandon these ties in favor of other powers who can better represent foreign interests, in response to the need for alternatives as a result of changes and developments.

This should confirm the feeling that there is no honorable and secure guarantee except for the satisfaction of God, the people, and the nation. It is in this light that life derives its great significance and establishes its sound context. God is great.

Each and every American, particularly each and every official in the U.S. Administration, must recall the reputation of the United States almost 20 years ago and how secure Americans felt when they toured the world then. They must also think about how the situation has become now. When they do so, they must identify, in all honesty and integrity, the reasons that have created this state of affairs, which still holds additional surprises for them. The main reason for this is that the United States, on the level of decisionmakers, has been plagued by a disease called arrogance and singlemindedness, which has prompted it to overlook the moral, cultural, and spiritual components of the tendencies, views, and aspirations of other peoples, as well as their right to security and sovereignty. Additionally, what is more horrifying to the Arabs in this regard is that some U.S. administrations, including the current administration, most often succumb and respond favorably to analyses and positions that do not render any sincere service to the United States' long-term and legitimate interests but only achieve the interests of the extremists within Zionist circles, according to a fanatic parochial viewpoint.

For example, the call for the pursuit of the so-called double-containment policy, when considered vis-a-vis the calls that stress the need to effect a balance in the region—the call for double containment means the declaration of constant war on Iraq and supplementing this war with another war on Iran, two important countries in the Middle East—on the pretext that this will promote U.S. interests, is merely a sort of political madness and racial discrimination. As regards Iraq, this call serves the policy of the Israeli leaders, who do not attach great importance to the future on the basis of balanced calculations, not to mention the way they view Arab rights and their continuous aggressive role in usurping these rights.

Such policies, in which the U.S. Administration is meant to become embroiled, are merely a foreign thread in U.S. policy. They are not meant to promote the legitimate interests of the United States and its people in the long run.

As for European nationalists who are after independence, we would like to address them, saying: You are the most capable of understanding the Arabs' traditions, as well as their yearning for freedom and independence. This is because you are the closest to the Arab homeland, not to mention the fact that you have had the greatest experience of dealing with Arabs. Most of you have arranged, and others are about to arrange, balanced ties with the Arabs based on mutual respect and mutual concern for legitimate interests. So, do not allow U.S. policy to drag you into positions that will cause you to experience great regret, since you will be held responsible for crimes. Do not follow the United States' parochial and single-minded policy, which it pursues to promote what it calls interests in the Middle East. If you do so, you will experience regret, when regret will not repair the

damage caused by a legacy of criminal conduct and also by going to excess in serious conceptions that have serious consequences.

As regards Japan, we would like to address it, saying: You are from the East and from Asia. Such qualities cannot be canceled by what is contrary to them in any relationship or description of a situation dictated by the requirements of a circumstantial policy. Your national duty requires you to look ahead to the future and not to be dragged by the United States to the abyss of deviation, crime, as well as unbalanced and unfair evaluation in your policy toward Arabs, including Asian Arabs. You must identify the elements that will help you enunciate a balanced position toward all this. Such a balanced position must also mark your response toward U.S. pressures, on one hand, and toward what is dictated by your national interests in the short and long runs, on the other.

All the honorable nationalists in the world should make concerted efforts, under any banners or in accordance with any formulas of action that will unite their activity and position, to defend their interests, security, and world security against the serious threat posed by the United States and its allies on this serious approach and its evil and unjust objectives.

Brothers, at the beginning of the Mother of Battles, some sides said various colors and positions intermingled before them. Those who had premeditated goals have also joined the anti-Iraq stand with the opportunists in the hope of making quick gains and quicker results. Among those who lined up behind the players and major manipulators of the anti-Iraq stand, who had destructive hostile intentions, were a large number of states. The number of these states exceeded 30, with 28 armies. Following the withdrawal of the valiant and honest jihad army from Kuwait, some people were enlightened about the true state of affairs and hostile intentions. Some parties corrected their positions, while others maintained their position. So far, they have not seen the future as they should. Despite this side, which some sides called the intermingling of colors, intentions, objectives, and positions, the Arab nation's conscience remained alive, sincere, enlightened, and honest regarding its stand toward the great principles introduced by the eternal Mother of Battles, and toward allying with either side. Regardless of any tendentious rumors spread by the enemy news media with the objective of hiding evil intentions and paving the way for the abominable crime aimed at destroying Iraq at present and in the future, and spreading horror and fears among the ranks and in the minds and hearts of those who advocate the principles of the nation of prophets and the place of the revelation of Koran and heavenly messages, the conscience and minds of the nation have remained alive and intact.

The Arab masses, from the farthest point of the Arab homeland, from the Atlantic Ocean to the banks of the Arabian Gulf, stood against the buildup that assembled in Hafar al-Batin. This position, in addition to other elements, encouraged the majority of writers, politicians, and several brotherly regimes to side with justice against falsehood. This sound, just position received great appreciation, extending outside their respective countries to include the Arab homeland and the Arab nation in its entirety. The states that stood against the plans of the aggression and beside Iraq were called the states of the Arab solution. They were called this because they said that the situation, its circumstances, and the accompanying claims and allegations would all be resolved by the Arabs themselves and not by foreigners. This view was sound and practical, based on experience and on the discovery of premeditated intentions of the foreigners in their far-reaching objectives.

After the close of the first chapter of the treacherous 30-state aggression—the chapter of treachery and treason—instead of taking pride in their great record, when they actually took part in the burden of struggle to win honor by facing the state of deviation emerging within the Arab ranks and the premeditated intentions of aggression by foreigners—whose objectives are no secret and are achieved at the expense of the nation's present and future—we saw that some people were wearied by the long march. Some of them might have been weakened or shaken. We tell those brothers or people concerned that the responsibility of being in power and engaging in mass political action in today's world—as a result of this action and its repercussions—often entails important consequences. As a matter of fact, the good deeds of those in power usually have a lesser effect and influence than their bad deeds.

Thus, those whose balance of good deeds is heavy, they will attain salvation. But those whose balance is light will lose their souls, in hell will they abide. [Koranic verses]

The opportunity to acquire honor and take a historic stand, like the one that existed during the Mother of Battles, is not always available. We can safely say that a case like the Mother of Battles—and the honor, glory, and reward any sensible position toward it gained—is rare and may not be available again in this lifetime for the leaders, writers, journalists, artists, politicians, leaders of Arab parties and mass organizations, and others of this generation. Brothers, or those concerned, do not miss this opportunity, which is a great honor for you and for your children and grandchildren, or the reward that God Almighty is holding for you.

Those who committed sin, treason and treachery, or premeditated aggression are among those who engineered the aggression and those who collaborated with them in Hafar al-Batin. They are still persisting in their injustice; they are not among you, brothers. They alone should apologize to themselves and to their nation, grandchildren, and people in the hope that God will forgive their sins. What happened has happened, including that which will be recalled by history as a outstanding mark and a beacon for the present and the

future. For the scum disappears like froth cast out, while that which is for the good of mankind remains on the earth. [Koranic verse]

O Arabs, children of our great nation, your nation is great for many reasons, the greatest of which is that it has not yielded under any duty God has dictated upon it. It is also great with the virtues God has awarded it. The Almighty has made these virtues the basis for choosing the messengers and prophets he has chosen from among its ranks. The nation also has the qualities needed to assume the honor of delivering his messages through prophets and messengers, until, thanks to God, monotheists from all religions on earth now number more than polytheists.

The story of the messenger of God, Abraham, the father of prophets, God's blessings be upon him, has many great lessons, as is the case with all the lessons we draw from the Koran.

From the lessons that God wanted man to be guided by along the path he chooses, we take this story: When the polytheists knew that the Prophet Abraham, may peace be upon him, was the one who destroyed their idols, they conspired against him. Their leaders ordered their subordinates to gather a huge pile of firewood to start a fire into which Abraham was to be thrown. Having gathered a large quantity of firewood and after setting it on fire, they led our master Abraham, may peace be upon him, in fetters and threw him into the fire. Wishes and sincere prayers were the only thing that those who believed in Abraham's call for monotheism and in renouncing the idols dared to do. Those whose perception was blocked by God stood in the opposite trench, raging with enthusiasm, each piling on as much firewood as he could. Two creatures were picked by God to be part of the lesson he had ordained. One was a small bird; the other was a lizard. As an expression of its stand, the bird's role was to carry in its beak whatever amount of water it could to throw onto the raging fire. The lizard's role was to blow on the fire or to carry a small straw to throw it into the fire, imagining that this would make the fire burn higher. This way, the lizard would express its stand. The lizard could not make the fire burn higher, nor could the bird's drops of water extinguish it or diminish its blaze. Then, God gave his great order for the fire to be cool and safe for Abraham. We said: O fire! Be cool, and a means of safety for Abraham! [Koranic verse]

As far as the lizard and the bird are concerned, there will be things, today and throughout the ages, that will be recorded either for them or against them. Both of them have maintained their positions, and people have behaved toward the bird and the lizard on the basis of this background. The status of each was arranged in terms of man's vision and conduct toward them.

God Almighty has symbolized good deeds by a beloved bird and symbolized evil by an accursed lizard. So God has made a choice for what he really wants for mankind, using this example. It is inconceivable that a lizard could be the closest thing to a man's heart—even in this abstract story. A bird is indeed closer to man's heart. The psychological closeness to the bird plays a part, making it possible to imitate the bird's actions. God wants good for those who choose to imitate the actions of this bird, but the devil will humiliate those whom God does not guide to the right path. So God made the lizard the closest thing to their hearts, and thus they will imitate the lizard's actions.

Our love for the sons of our nation makes us pray to God Almighty to make every one of them a faithful symbol and a symbol of a great position. However, he who cannot be so can be a bird like those of Prophet Abraham, peace be upon him, and not in another position. This is despite the fact that we, and you, brothers, know that there will be no position similar to that of Prophet Abraham's bird, one capable of extinguishing the fire set around Iraq by the parties concerned. Likewise, there will be no breath, similar to that of the lizard, capable of fanning the fire. But it is the will of able and great God alone, along with the responsive wills of the faithful, that can extinguish this fire. The flames are gone, but what is left is the time for the total extinction of fire, God willing. As Prophet Muhammad said: He among you who sees a wrongdoing can terminate it with his hand, if he fails he can do so with his tongue and if he fails he can do so with his heart, which is the weakest form of faith.

A salute of appreciation, pride, and love to all the steadfast ones who have faith, pan-Arab zeal, patriotism, and humanitarian sentiments. It is a profound sorrow that some have fallen outside the march of the great nation, thereby scoring against them what we would have been scored for them if they had taken the opposite position, intentions, and values. It is true thou wilt not be able to guide everyone whom thou lovest. But God guides those whom he will, and he knows best those who receive guidance. [Koranic verse]

A salute to the sons of our Arab nation wherever the flags of right are hoisted by their hands in the confrontation of falsehood. A salute to the steadfast, proud, mujahid, and dear people of Palestine. A salute to the Somali people's resistance to injustice, control, and tyranny. A salute to Iraq, the center of virtue, glory, pride, generous offering, patience, sacrifice, and brilliance. A salute to Iraq. God is great. God is great. Accursed be the lowly ones.

Ramadan Addresses Kurds on Revolution Anniversary

JN1907122293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Jul (INA)—The Legislative and Executive Councils of the Autonomous Region of Kurdistan have held a celebration to mark the 25th anniversary of the glorious 17-30 July revolution. The celebration was held under the slogan "Under the Banner of Victorious Leader Saddam Husayn, 17-30 July Revolution Achieves for Our Kurdish People Their National, Cultural Rights in Unified Iraq."

Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and vice president, delivered a speech in which he said: Our Kurdish people's observance of this great occasion, along with all Iraqis, deepens our feelings of happiness, satisfaction, and pride. He noted that the celebrations are taking place in spite of the blockade to confirm to the whole world that regardless of their means of disinformation and destruction, the enemies will not be able to deprive the Iraqis of the smile on their faces or prevent them from commemorating their holidays.

He added that this year's celebrations have something special about them, because they coincide with the silver jubilee of the launching of the Ba'th revolution—the revolution of Iraqis, Arabs and Kurds, which has matured, gained strength, and sincerely reflected its objectives and principles.

He pointed out that the revolution has made many achievements in political, economic, cultural, educational fields and services. The revolution has also taken national, pan-Arab, and international stands which are medals on the chests of all glorious Iraqis.

Taha Yasin Ramadan also spoke about the revolution's stand toward the Kurdish question, noting the rights, privileges, and accomplishments it has secured for the sons of our Kurdish people. This stand stems from the leadership's genuine, principled belief in the national rights of Kurds.

He added: One of the important, strategic national achievements was the historic 11 March Statement to resolve the Kurdish question peacefully and democratically. The statement established a solid foundation for a unified Iraq—land and people—and translated the true principles of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. The Ba'th Party was the first party to endorse the national rights of ethnic minorities in the Arab nation and the Third World in the formula declared and implemented, and to equate these rights with those of the rest of the nation in terms of their rights and duties, out of the fact that national suffering anywhere is understood by the Ba'thists who experienced their nation's suffering from divisions, backwardness, and foreign domination.

Taha Yasin Ramadan added that the attitude of the glorious 17-30 July revolution toward our Kurdish people derived from the rich repertoire of the Ba'thist theory of action, formulated by leader Saddam Husayn, who outlined his position toward his Kurdish people on the basis of the principles of the great Ba'th, as well as his own understanding of the leadership responsibility as it should be. President Saddam Husayn also proceeded from a firm conviction that he is responsible to God and the people for the Kurds as well as the Arabs. President Saddam Husayn would not accept to see any harm come to any Kurdish individual. He even granted them some rights which they did not demand, because his excellency has special feelings toward them. The leader deems it a happy occasion whenever he receives or visits his Kurdish citizens and exchanges opinions and intimate conversation with them.

Taha Yasin Ramadan added that the Autonomous Region of Kurdistan has witnessed a prosperous construction drive and many strategic development projects in education, agriculture, tourism, transportation, irrigation, industry and trade. Also, hundreds of projects were implemented and hospitals, schools, roads were built. The sons of our Kurdish people have rallied around leader Saddam Husayn, who gave them a new life and granted them their rights. In fact, he gave them two kinds of rights: Rights for them as Kurds and also as Iraqis.

Taha Yasin Ramadan also spoke about the position of agents and traitors who implement U.S.-Zionist schemes, from among the gangs of the two agents Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani. He affirmed that the sons of our great Kurdish people, who are bound up with Iraqi land, people, history, and geography, are the brothers of the Iraqi Arabs, and will rise against these agent cliques.

The vice president of the republic said that methods of temptation and disinformation will not fool the sons of our Kurdish people who are suffering from foreign occupation, the domination of agent cliques, poverty, starvation, and lack of security.

Baha'-al-Din Ahmad, head of the Legislative Council of the Autonomous Region of Kurdistan, then made a speech in which he praised the achievements of the glorious 17-30 July revolution, launched by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn.

He added: Our Kurdish people are determined to pursue struggle in order to return to the state of law and order which they now miss under colonialist presence and the control of the cliques of sabotage and chaos over the Autonomous Region of Kurdistan.

Ahmad al-Atrushi, secretary of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, also delivered a speech in which he praised the great achievements of the glorious 17-30 July revolution for the sons of our great people.

He added that these achievements did not please the traitors, stooges, and mercenaries who plotted against Iraq's progress.

He said the people of Iraq are unified, steadfast, and patient, raising the banner of God is Great behind their great leader, Saddam Husayn, having faith in their revolution and eager to maintain its glow and light.

Iranian DPK, Komeleh To Withdraw From Border Area

NC1607180693 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1705 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] The Democratic Party of Kordestan [DPK] in Iran and the Iranian Kordestan Toilers Party—

Komeleh—have announced that they will withdraw their forces from the border with Iran to inside [Iraqi] Kurdistan.

A DPK spokesman in al-Sulaymaniyah said party members have received orders not to approach the border areas. A Komeleh official said his party has left the Halabjah region.

The two parties said they reached agreement with the Kurdistan regional government to avoid any provocative act that might lead to attacks on the border areas. This agreement coincided with the first official visit by an Iranian delegation to Kurdistan on Tuesday. The delegation discussed bilateral relations between Iran and the Kurdistan regional government, security in the border area, and trade issues.

Iranian Shelling Intensifies; 7,000 Driven From Homes

NC1807182593 Paris AFP in English 1735 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Report by Lissy Schmidt]

[Text] Irbil, Iraq, July 18 (AFP)—Iran's shelling of Iranian Kurdish refugees has intensified near here in the past 10 days, killing seven and leaving thousands homeless, according to Kurdish leaders and international aid agencies.

The shelling, which continued despite a visit to Iraqi Kurdish leaders by a senior delegation from Tehran, has driven 7,000 villagers, Iraqi and Iranian, into the hills, the sources said.

Many of the villages have been partly or totally destroyed by the shelling.

The Iranian delegation, which arrived Tuesday to meet Kurdish political leaders in their self-proclaimed independent region of Iraqi Kurdistan, left Saturday without any visible progress being made, according to Kurdish sources.

The delegation would return after consultations with Tehran, they added.

Heavy shelling continued on Saturday night, witnesses said.

In the northeastern region of Qal'at Dizah, an AFP correspondent saw three villages which had been destroyed by Iranian shelling, and a swathe of agricultural land—on which the Iranian Kurds depend for their livelihood—which was burnt out.

Another 20 villages in the region have been abandoned, according to local residents.

Iran accuses the opposition Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iran of launching "terrorist acts" in Iran from bases inside Iraqi Kurdistan.

The Iranian delegation met with Mas'ud Barzani, head of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan, and Jalal Talabani, head of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, but failed to persuade the Iraqi Kurdish leaders to eject their Iranian counterparts from the region.

"We can't accept any proposals on how to treat the Iranian Kurdish opposition here in our region," an Iraqi Kurdish representative at the talks told AFP, adding that they would be telling Iranian Kurds not to launch military strikes from their region.

"It is our decision to let them stay here or to push them out," the representative said, adding that they had no intention to throw out the Iranian Kurds "for the time being."

At Maydan, in the Darbandikhan region 150 kilometres (95 miles) south of Qal'at Dizah, about 200 Iranian soldiers made an incursion last week, according to the local Kurdish military leader.

Witnesses told AFP the few who stayed in the village of Shiwaraz, near Qal'at Dizah, and tried to harvest their crops after sporadic Iranian shelling began in April, had left after five of them were killed on July 3.

Representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in al-Sulaymaniyah said they would try to work with the German aid organisation Medico International, which is active in the region, to resettle the displaced people further from the Iranian border.

Meanwhile refugees are flooding the region's villages and towns, notably Qal'at Dizah. In the nearby village of Raniyah, around 50 Iranian Kurdish families are living in schools and public buildings, according to Kurdish authorities.

Cabinet Issues Statement on Security Zone Deployments

TA1807105293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1027 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] We now move over to political correspondent Shlomo Raz live outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem.

[Raz] Although today's weekly cabinet session is still under way, Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein, in a most unusual step, left the meeting a few minutes ago in order to issue a statement to the assembled news correspondents, summing up the cabinet's debate on the security situation. Let us carefully listen to his remarks.

[Rubinstein] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has reinforced its deployment in order to defend the northern settlements and to guarantee the security and well-being of the residents of northern Israel. The IDF will take action against any party that attacks its soldiers in the security zone. This in addition to the activities of the SLA [South Lebanese Army] forces. That is all.

[Raz] That was the cabinet secretary in a special communique released by the cabinet following its debate on security issues. This is definitely an interesting and noteworthy piece of news. Police Minister Moshe Shahal, who was outside the cabinet meeting, was asked about the significance of this announcement. His reply was rather vague.

[Shahal] The announcement means exactly what it says. The cabinet discussed the situation and announced what it did. I hope that whoever should understand its significance will indeed grasp its contents.

Deputy Defense Minister Comments

TA1807160593 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1400 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Interview with Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur by Rafi Reshef, in the studio—live]

[Text] [Reshef] Would it be correct to describe the cabinet statement as a threat?

[Gur] No, I think that the cabinet statement is a summation of things that have already been said and evaluations that have already been heard. We simply wanted to put things in perspective. If Galilee residents cannot live in peace, then inhabitants of south Lebanon will not be able to live peacefully either. That is an old message, but we apparently had to reissue it, which is what we did today.

[Reshef] Is it not too little, too late? There have been a few days of quiet in the north.

[Gur] First, we have to welcome each day of quiet.

[Reshef] Don't get the impression that there was a note of disappointment in what I said.

[Gur] No, of course not. There is no doubt that the preparations by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] had an effect—they are not a secret; they can be observed—but I also think that beyond what Hizballah saw, it was also clear from our overall behavior that we cannot tolerate a situation where the trigger is so freely pulled, aimed at the heads of our inhabitants in the north. That is something we are not prepared to take. There is no question that the IDF is stronger than Hizballah. It is obvious that if we decide to use force, we can employ great might.

[Reshef] In general, we suffered two quite heavy blows last week. What is the motive behind the restraint?

[Gur] First, in the past there were also local tactical and overall political considerations. That has been true of all Israeli governments because we are not alone in the arena. When referring to tactical considerations, we must first be sure that our forces are ready to deliver two blows for each one we receive. We must make sure that we will not do anything in haste, which we will regret. Second, we must make sure that we can hit our targets. There are things that require preparations and for which the public has to be prepared. We are in the midst of a blooming tourist season in the north. Masses of Israelis are coming to the northern border. We have to take all that into consideration when we decide whether to act, and how and when we do so.

[Reshef] I assume their motives to heat up the border or to suddenly maintain quiet are not always clear to us.

[Gur] In some case, I do not think there is an overall intention to heat up the border.

[Reshef] Is it a local action?

[Gur] It is simply an action that succeeded, or succeeded beyond a certain point, and that calls for us to do something. Nevertheless, I must say that we can assume that Hizballah always wants to harm the peace process. The Iranians do not hide that.

[Reshef] But it is no secret that in this instance we relayed to the Syrians that we consider them responsible for what is happening. Are there any indications that the message sank in?

[Gur] Yes, you cut me off just as I came to that point. The Syrians have much closer and stronger control over Hizballah. We have a feeling that the Syrians want the peace talks to continue, while at the same time, they are not upset when somebody stings us constantly from the side. We have to acknowledge that these two situations exist. We do not want to stop the peace talks, but under no circumstances are we prepared to sustain those stings, especially when they harm citizens.

[Reshef] If I read you properly, you are saying that we know that the Syrians are not involved directly, but chose to ignore what is happening.

[Gur] We know that the Syrians are directly involved. That is, it is not a Syrian soldier pulling the trigger, but without overall Syrian readiness, Hizballah could not pull the trigger.

[Reshef] Has our message sunk in there?

[Gur] I believe that in the wake of the U.S. delegation's presence here and as a result of statements issued here in recent days, it is clear to the Syrians that they might have crossed the danger line of confrontation between the forces. We maintain freedom of action because we have the might and we can employ it whenever we wish to do so. We have taken into account the other elements. I repeat, if there is quiet, it will be welcome.

Ministers Comment on Significance

TA1807171493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz]

[Text] The cabinet drafted a warning and, in an extraordinary move, dispatched Elyaqim Rubinstein to the microphones to read it. No vote was taken. What is the significance of the cabinet announcement? We can learn its meaning from ministerial statements after the cabinet session. Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am is not expecting any irregular development.

[Begin Bar'am recording] The announcement notes the situation that has developed and acts as a warning to Hizballah, but as far as I know from the meeting, it does not involve any operational move. [end recording]

Economy and Planning Minister Shim'on Shetrit points to the fact that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is primed and the government maintains its freedom of action.

[Begin Shetrit recording] The government laid the ground work, allowing it to make all the necessary decisions. [end recording]

How does Immigrant Absorption Minister Ya'ir Tzaban view the cabinet statement?

[Begin Tzaban recording] The cabinet is telling elements on the other side, especially Hizballah and those who support it, that Israel will not tolerate the unceasing provocations, and will respond when, where, and how it finds suitable. Anything said beyond that is superfluous. [end recording]

Interior Minister Arye Der'i reiterated the remarks made by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at the cabinet session, that the IDF will return fire at the sources of fire.

[Begin Der'i recording] There is a certain change in policy here: for each shooting incident there will be an immediate response aimed at the source. The IDF has the all the means to respond more extensively. The forces are on the ready, and those recipients understand its meaning. [end recording]

The discussion on the announcement worded jointly by the prime minister and cabinet secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein was the main item on today's cabinet agenda.

The ministers also dealt with the peace negotiations and Warren Christopher's anticipated visit, which in Energy and Infrastructure Minister Moshe Shahal's view does not affect the rounds of talks still planned in Washington.

[Begin Shahal recording] The very decision to come to the Middle East means that the United States views the region as having top priority. Second, I do not think that the U.S. secretary of state would come if he did not at least have a feeling that his arrival would bring about some movement. It should therefore be welcomed. [end recording]

But what will be discussed with Christopher? It can be understood from Health Minister Hayim Ramon that Jerusalem and the autonomy's boundaries of jurisdiction, and with the Syrians the essence of the peace and the character of the withdrawal.

[Begin Ramon recording] It is obvious that he is not going to discuss the issues already revolved, but the outstanding bones of contention which the sides have not managed to overcome in direct talks. He will try to draw the sides closer in a shuttle diplomacy, as has been done in the past. [end recording]

IDF Said Authorized To Retaliate

TA1907091093 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Jul 93 p A1

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar, Eytan Rabin, Menahem Horowitz, and Gay Bekhor]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] A senior military source yesterday evening said that the cabinet had authorized the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in principle to do everything necessary to defend the northern settlements.

The decision on whether or not to launch a limited military operation is now up to the IDF, depending on the situation in south Lebanon and the level of terrorist activity there. The source warned that if the terrorists continue to fire katyusha rockets or attempt to attack IDF units, as was the case on 17 July near Bint Jubayl in the western sector, the Israeli Army would retaliate with great force.

The prevailing assessment at the IDF's Northern Command is that the terrorists will step up their activity prior to Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the Middle East at the beginning of August. The senior military source claimed that Syria does not have full control over all the terrorist organizations in south Lebanon. Therefore, the activity of even one solitary terrorist squad could potentially exacerbate violence throughout the entire sector. [passage omitted]

Rabinovich on Importance of Christopher Visit

TA1807051993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] The U.S. Administration is now adopting the shuttle diplomacy preferred by former Secretaries of State Henry Kissinger and James Baker. Here is an interview between Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States, and our correspondent in Washington Arye Golan.

[Begin recording] [Golan] In light of the conclusions Dennis Ross and his team reached during their visit to Israel, are the Americans now preparing new ideas prior to Christopher's trip to the region?

[Rabinovich] I think that the emphasis of this visit is not so much on ideas as on the high level or rank in which it is being conducted. Perhaps the major operative conclusion reached by the U.S. team, not surprisingly, was that the secretary of state himself must tour the region, meet with the decisionmakers, employ his personal and public authority, and also play up to past expectations. People like Hafiz al-Asad, who was used to Henry Kissinger spending days in the Middle East to reach partial agreements, or James Baker flying to the region eight times before the convening of the Madrid conference, expect the secretary of state to honor the region with his presence on more than one or two occasions, especially when a comprehensive peace agreement is under discussion.

[Golan] Israeli newspapers over the weekend also disclosed that the real game was taking place far away from Washington, between Shim'on Peres' Foreign Ministry boys, who are talking directly with the PLO—perhaps even on a permanent arrangement, through Dr. Usamah al-Baz, the adviser to the Egyptian president. Is this true?

[Rabinovich] First of all, I think that the real game is taking place within the framework of the Madrid conference. This framework has built-in flexibility, and we have already introduced some procedural changes in this framework over the past few rounds. The U.S. team is now playing a different role than it was three months ago. And if we study the Madrid framework, we will discover that with mutual consent, changes can be introduced in the process. There is a political arena in Washington; there is also a Middle East arena, to which the secretary of state is now moving the focal point. There are many reports, much speculation, and a great deal of tension. I think that 'Abd-al-Shafi's remarks against Yasir 'Arafat are very interesting and indicate that when rumors spread about contacts between Israel and the PLO, it arouses interest and speculation, not only in Israel, but also among the Palestinians.

[Golan] Ambassador Rabinovich, does Israel have any new proposals or ideas of its own to break the deadlock, beyond raising the level of the talks to meetings with Secretary of State Christopher himself?

[Rabinovich] Well, consultations and preparations are underway prior to the secretary's visit to Israel. After all, it is still some time before he arrives. Consultations, ideas, and decisions will be made in Jerusalem if necessary.

[Golan] Can we expect any new Israeli decisions or ideas?

[Rabinovich] I do not think that these things should be decided upon before the trip because after all, the visit is not exclusively to Israel. The U.S. team will stop over in Israel and also visit Arab capitals. It will probably return to Israel at the end of the tour. Perhaps, it will then bring new information which could compel Israel to think. All this, however, has yet to happen.

[Golan] Would you say that there was now a real chance for arrangements by the end of 1993, which was the target date set by the Americans this week?

[Rabinovich] True, in a briefing given by the U.S. peace team, they specified the end of 1993 as their target date. We do not set any fixed time constraints; however, I am encouraged by the fact that a professional U.S. team, which has just returned from a tour of the region, found it appropriate to set such time constraints. [end recording]

Discusses Syrian Threat

TA1807063393 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Telephone interview with Itamar Rabinovich, ambassador to the United States, by Gay Zohar and Ya'el Dan on 18 July—recorded]

[Text] [Zohar] Earlier this morning, we sought to hear another opinion from Washington, and we spoke with Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States. We started off by asking him to comment on the fact that after being accustomed to shuttle diplomacy, Israelis perceived the Madrid formula as a step forward. We asked the ambassador whether the present U.S. initiative was not actually a step backward again?

[Rabinovich] I do not think that this should be seen as either a step backward or the wrong way to handle things. After all, if we look back at the last 20 years, an active U.S. role always helped at the final stages of reaching an agreement, whether it was during Kissinger's or Carter's time, or during the tenure of James Baker, whose main achievement was convening the Madrid conference. This mechanism in itself is effective, and I would not consider it backsliding.

[Zohar] Do you think that the United States plans, or that Christopher was advised by his aides, to attempt to convene a high-level meeting in the region between foreign ministers, or even prime ministers and heads of state?

[Rabinovich] No, I do not think that he intends to convene a meeting in the region. His role is to bridge between the parties. In other words, he will visit several capitals, some of them more than once during this short tour. The secretary will attempt to bridge differences himself, not by convening any summits.

[Dan] When people talk about raising the level of the talks, what is the significance of this with regard to the Palestinians? The prime minister wondered aloud whether upgrading the level of the talks would lead the Palestinians to demand direct negotiations with the PLO, something clearly unacceptable to Yitzhaq Rabin. Is this what it really means?

[Rabinovich] No, I think that in the present context, any talk of upgrading the negotiations pertains only to American officials, with the secretary of state personally getting into the picture, as opposed to the previous visit by the U.S. team, which was confined to the bureaucratic level. Now, the secretary of state is getting into the picture, bringing presidential authority to bear, and the assessment is that this level of U.S. participation is essential both with regard to its effect on the Palestinians and its capacity to more firmly bind al-Asad to the process. This is the real significance of upgrading the talks.

[Zohar] Do the Americans still have faith in the Madrid formula?

[Rabinovich] The Americans still believe in the Madrid formula. In the talks I held at the State Department last Friday [16 July], the Americans said that as far as they were concerned, the secretary of state's trip and the work going on between rounds was not designed to undermine the Madrid framework, which they are very pleased with, but rather to introduce slight changes or modifications in order to strengthen this framework.

[Dan] Have the U.S. officials abandoned the joint document of principles they attempted to formulate?

[Rabinovich] Certainly not. The document served as a working paper during the U.S. peace team's recent trip. It will remain on the table during the secretary's visit. I do not believe that it will be the only issue under discussion—they will definitely also look in other directions. However, the document remains an integral part of the working framework on the Palestinian track.

[Dan] Professor Rabinovich, the Syrians are now saying that any Israeli attack on Lebanon would be viewed as an attack on Syria. Should we take this threat seriously?

[Rabinovich] I think their statements should be taken seriously. However, I believe that the Syrians know very well from us, through numerous channels and levels, that any attack on Israel or its assets in south Lebanon will also be viewed very seriously in Jerusalem.

[Zohar] Yes, you know a great deal about the Syrians, and not just from your meetings in Washington. Their argument is that Lebanon is actually part of Syria. Should Foreign Minister al-Shar's statements be taken pragmatically? Should we expect a military confrontation with Syria if Israel shells or attacks in Lebanon?

[Rabinovich] Listen, I think that both we and the Syrians are fully aware of the military balance between our two countries. We all know that we are in the midst of a political process that currently has first priority. However, I also assume that the Syrians realize the limits of our patience.

Rabin Sees Problems With Raising Level of Talks

TA1807104693 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 18 Jul 93 p 3

[Report by Amnon Barzilay and Yoram Binur]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is not opposed to upgrading the peace talks to the foreign minister level. "Why should I oppose raising the level to that of foreign ministers?," Rabin said yesterday during an interview with HADASHOT. Nevertheless, Rabin noted that as far as he knew, Israel had not been presented with such a proposal.

Prime Minister Rabin explained: "When the possibility of raising the level of the talks comes up, there will be only one problem, and that is with the Palestinians. The question is who will fulfill the role of foreign minister on the Palestinians' behalf. If the Palestinians raise the level of the talks, then the negotiations will be with the PLO, and we insist that the negotiations be with the residents of the territories," Rabin said.

As for the reports about secret contacts with senior PLO elements, Rabin said: "I do not know what you are talking about. I do not know who met whom, and I have no intention of getting into this. The negotiations are between the Israeli and Palestinian delegations."

On Friday [16 July], the Americans informed the prime minister about Secretary of State Warren Christopher's plans to arrive in Israel on 1 August for a five-day shuttle mission. Political sources last night told HADASHOT that one should not expect anything dramatic during Christopher's visit to the region. [passage omitted on statements by Arab officials]

Comments on Confederation

TA1807110793 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 18 Jul 93 pp 1, 8

[Report by Pe'erli Shahar and Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] The Palestinians will forgo their demand to discuss the status of Jerusalem at the present time if Israel agrees to include the PLO in the negotiations. This is the assessment of political sources in Jerusalem, who added that the Palestinians raised this demand in the first place in order to pressure Israel into agreeing to involve the PLO in the talks.

Over the weekend, Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador in Washington, briefed Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin about his meeting with Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Christopher will arrive in our region in late July. Jerusalem sources assess that due to Rabin's opposition to changing the Madrid format, Christopher will propose establishing another dialogue track—in addition to the bilateral track—in which Christopher will maintain direct contact with the decisionmakers. Washington hopes to facilitate the talks in this manner.

In the wake of reports published over the weekend on a disagreement between Rabin and Peres over the timing of the permanent arrangement talks, the prime minister's bureau emphasized that "so far Peres has not talked with Rabin about the idea of skipping over the interim stage."

Regarding Rabin's stand on a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation, it was said that Rabin is not opposed to the idea of a confederation as a solution for the permanent stage, as long as this does not involve a confederation between two independent entities. Rabin's associates said that Israel would agree to almost any arrangement which does not include an independent Palestinian state. Rabin believes the interim arrangement stage is extremely significant, because during this period new ideas for the permanent solution could be raised.

Discusses Peace With Syria

TA1907110893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says Israel is capable of coping wisely with the problems in the north from the standpoint of strength and confidence. He was speaking in Jerusalem to a Young Israel Bonds mission. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] Prime Minister Rabin said the days when Israel felt the whole world was against it are over. Today the world is open to Israel, he said. Presidents and prime ministers from China to South America are visiting Israel, and he barely has time to cope with the stream of distinguished guests. Rabin hinted that the change in Israel's situation should influence the way in which it deals with Palestinian terrorism and with the security problem in the north.

[Rabin] Not fear should be the force that drives us, but hope. Hope and belief, without ignoring the difficulties, the problems, the Palestinian terror, the problems in the north. I believe that we are capable to cope with them wisely from a standpoint of strength and confidence.

[Katzenell] The prime minister seemed to be justifying the restraint shown by the government in yesterday's announcement, which implied that there would be no Israeli military reaction to recent terrorist attacks in Lebanon provided they are not resumed.

Rabin described the kind of peace he would like to have with Syria, with open borders, trade links, and the encouragement of normalization between the two peoples.

[Rabin] For this kind of peace, I am ready to make painful compromises, because I believe in the value, the importance of the peace that I have described to you, with Syria. I believe the time has arrived to take calculated risks even for peace, and we will do it. [end recording]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 19 July, in its report on Rabin's comments, carries another recorded passage of Rabin's remarks in English, in which he says: "We changed. We said to the Syrians: For peace, we are ready for a withdrawal of the Israeli armed forces on the Golan Heights to secure and recognized boundaries, but before we negotiate the geographical dimension of our withdrawal, we would like to get a clear answer from Syria on their meaning of the word peace."]

Rabin Aides Reiterate Adherence to Madrid Format

TA1807104093 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Jul 93 pp A1, 8

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar, Ori Nir, Gay Bekhor, and agencies]

[Excerpts] Political sources in Jerusalem yesterday said that Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit is apparently aimed at preparing the ground for the next round of talks between Israel and the Arabs in September.

According to the information which has arrived in Jerusalem, the U.S. Administration has opted for a Christopher shuttle mission, despite the fact that Dennis Ross' report did not indicate that there are chances for a breakthrough in the near future. [passage omitted]

Political circles assess that Christopher will attempt to examine the options for a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation, Gaza First, and early empowerment. The United States does not intend to concentrate any longer on the document it formulated during the last round of Washington talks. Christopher will examine whether Prime Minister Rabin is willing to deviate from the Madrid format and adopt the recommendation of Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to launch talks on the permanent arrangement, while continuing to negotiate over the autonomy. Over the weekend, Rabin's associates reiterated that Rabin continues to adhere to the Madrid format and has no intentions of deviating from it.

One of the dovish ministers in the government has said that the discussion over a confederation at this stage does not guarantee a breakthrough in the peace process, because the PLO is constantly emphasizing it does not intend to forgo the issue of Jerusalem. Negotiations over

a confederation will also have to deal with the issue of borders, which the government is unwilling to address at this point.

Minister Moshe Shahal, who raised the issue of confederation during his meeting with Mubarak in Cairo late in 1987 and in the Labor bureau—which adopted this idea 2 years ago—told HA'ARETZ: "Basic stands are unrelated to the time factor. Labor has always preferred to discuss the permanent stage rather than the Likud-initiated autonomy." Shahal said he prefers the solution of a permanent arrangement based on a confederation, because it is an illusion to think that autonomy can lead to annexation.

Recent reports from Washington indicate that in his upcoming visit, Christopher does not intend to encourage new approaches to the peace process that would violate the Madrid format. At the same time, Christopher will try to find out what the sides think about various initiatives that could facilitate the process. Christopher's advisers do not think there is any point in discussing the character of the permanent arrangements in the territories at this stage, and therefore they are not encouraging negotiations over a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation. At the same time, they regard Israeli signals in favor of such a confederation in a positive light. [passage omitted]

Senior U.S. officials told Israeli representatives in Washington they see a "potential for good progress" in the talks, especially along the Syrian track, but also on the Palestinian track, adding that Christopher will attempt to exhaust this potential.

It is unclear what the basis is for the optimism along the Syrian track, but on the Palestinian track there are two sources of optimism. The first is their willingness to discuss the joint declaration of principles, and the second is their agreement-in-principle to discuss the speedy transference of Civil Administration authorities prior to the signing of an autonomy agreement.

The Palestinians told the U.S. peace team they prefer not to define this as "early empowerment," but rather as "early assumption of authorities."

Due to the timing of Christopher's visit, Israeli and U.S. sources in Washington assess that the 11th round of peace talks will be postponed until early or late September, until after the holidays. Israeli sources in Washington explain that the Americans are not interested in holding the talks in the second half of August because most of the State Department officials involved in the talks intend to leave for vacation.

Christopher himself intends to take a two-week vacation starting 19 August. The second half of September is unsuitable due to the Jewish holidays. There is a possibility, therefore, for a short round of hastily convened talks during the second week of August.

Beilin: All Parties Seem To Agree on Confederation

TA1607174893 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Shlomo Ganor; place and date not given—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles; processed from the Hebrew]

[Text] [Ganor] Dr. Beilin, what is to be expected from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's planned visit to the region?

[Beilin] If indeed he arrives next week, for us it would primarily constitute a very important signal of both increasing U.S. involvement and the fact that it is believed that an agreement of principles is attainable in the near future, and that the 11th round of talks can begin soon on the basis of an agreement.

[Ganor] Why does it not start now?

[Beilin] There is no problem with starting it now, but it is clear that if we could start it with an agreement on several of the disputed points between us and the Palestinians, it would significantly facilitate the next round of talks and make them much more fruitful. After all, detailed negotiations will start as soon as we agree on the document of principles. It is worth mentioning that up to today we have been discussing a document of principles toward the negotiations—with Syria, Lebanon, and the Palestinians. We are negotiating the negotiations. Real negotiations have in fact started with only the Jordanians.

[Ganor] What is the idea behind the offer that the Israeli-Palestinian declaration of principles include a possible Jordanian-Palestinian confederation as the permanent arrangement?

[Beilin] This possibility arises from a very interesting situation that has occurred in the region: Jordan and the Palestinians are committed to the idea of confederation. In February 1991, Labor declared that it would be willing to accept a confederative solution. On the face of it, all the relevant elements—including the Americans, who said as much in the letter of assurances they handed the Palestinians in 1991—are committed to the very same idea. If indeed there is common ground regarding the permanent arrangement—not in detail, but only in principle—it could certainly be a very important tool to promote the negotiations at this time.

[Ganor] What are the chances of this really being accepted?

[Beilin] I do not know. Since there seems to be an agreement between all the parties, it is worth examining. I view it as an issue that keeps the existing framework intact. We are saying that we are willing to implement UN Resolution 242 during the negotiations. This is the basis for the negotiations. If, at the same time, we agree

that the solution should be confederative in nature, I believe it would make it easier for all the parties and will allay many existing fears and suspicions that, perhaps, in the transitional agreement one party might erode another party's rights. We will all know where we are headed in the permanent arrangements.

[Ganor] Is raising this idea not shattering the Madrid framework?

[Beilin] Absolutely not. Madrid speaks of an agreement of principles that refers to the interlock between the interim and the permanent arrangements. Nothing prevents us from saying, in the agreement of principles, that the interim arrangement leads to a permanent arrangement of a confederative nature. For Israel, the question is whether this solution is desirable, and the government will have to make a decision on this.

Calls Talks With PLO 'Technical Question'

TA1807201693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin said that the question of whether to talk with the PLO is almost identical to the question whether to withdraw from Sinai and make peace with Egypt. It is a technical question, and already behind us, among other things, ever since the Madrid meeting between Yitzhaq Shamir and Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi. Yosi Beilin spoke with our correspondent Sheli Yehimovich at a gathering of Labor's Mashov Circle. Knesset Member Ya'el Dayan said that the majority in Labor's Central Committee support a dialogue with the PLO.

Netanyahu: Rabin Must Stop Race To Talk to PLO

TA1707165393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Reacting to reports that members of the Citizens Rights Movement have been holding contacts with the PLO leadership for several years, Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu said that these people are now members of the coalition and the cabinet. If Yitzhaq Rabin is still faithful to his commitment not to hold negotiations with Yasir 'Arafat, he must immediately stop his cabinet ministers who are racing to talk to the PLO. This race will lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state, Netanyahu said.

U.S. Warns Against Official Contacts With PLO

TA1907094893 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 19 Jul 93 p 1

[Report by the political correspondent]

[Text] The Israeli Government has received warnings from the Clinton administration to the effect that it would disapprove of any official contact with the PLO, in the wake of proposals by Meretz and dovish ministers to conduct negotiations with the PLO.

The United States severed all relations with the PLO following the terrorist attack on Nizzanim beach and is refusing to resume the dialogue with it, especially in light of the PLO's support of Saddam Husayn.

Political circles yesterday said that Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' proposal that the U.S. peace team conduct negotiations over the permanent arrangement while pursuing negotiations over the interim arrangement could hamper Secretary of State Warren Christopher's efforts, because the Palestinians will be able to claim that the Israeli foreign minister was the one who proposed discussing the permanent arrangement—and seeing that this is the case, why should they abrogate their own position?

Regarding Christopher's visit to the region, it is feared that if the visit falls on the issues of the Golan Heights and Jerusalem, this could put an end to the peace process and cause the United States to withdraw from the negotiations.

Editorial Sees Need for Creativity From Christopher

TA1807111893 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 18 Jul 93 p 2

[Editorial: "In Baker's Shoes"]

[Text] This summer's vacation has been spoiled for the statesmen of the Middle East. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has announced that he is planning a shuttle mission to our region at the beginning of next month. Senior State Department officials, who visited the area last week, reached the conclusion that only high-pressure personal involvement by Mr. Christopher could move the political process forward. Thus, Christopher is leaping straight into the well-polished shoes of James Baker, the man who so loved high-flying Middle East diplomacy.

But the unresolved issues Christopher has to deal with are far weightier than the issues Baker sought to resolve. This may serve as an indication of how far the parties have nevertheless managed to come. The issue of settlement building in the territories, for example, no longer features on the agenda after Israel agreed to freeze construction. Israel also accepted Faysal al-Husayni's inclusion in the negotiations. The Rabin government also agreed to make concessions on the Golan Heights and to accept the idea of an almost independent Palestinian government in the Gaza Strip.

These significant agreements removed minor obstacles from the negotiations' path and enabled it to finally touch on the real sticking points: borders, sovereignty, and Jerusalem.

In order to nudge the parties closer to resolving these differences, Christopher will require much more initiative, creativity, and patience then Baker ever had, and Baker, one should recall, was no mean secretary of state.

Editorial Views U.S. Commitment to Peace Process

TA1807142193 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Jul 93 p B1

[Editorial: "The United States Will Not Enforce Peace"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will visit Jerusalem and several Arab capitals in two weeks' time. The visit can be viewed as an indication that the U.S. leadership does not tend to disown one of the commitments inherited from the previous administration. And yet, the feeling that it is reluctant to invest its full energy in promoting the Madrid process is hard to ignore.

This feeling is reinforced by the reports that the administration has decided to take time-out until the end of the year, until which time the process will be handled solely by the bureaucrats. These reports are backed by rumors spread by Middle East elements that the "peace team" will return to the region as soon as a new bridging document is available. The team wants to ensure that none of the involved parties will drop out of the process even if no agreement is achieved on the document's draft.

It stands to reason that if President Bill Clinton was prepared to become as fully involved as President Jimmy Carter had been in 1978, all the parties would be ready to conform to the wishes of the superpower with which Rabin, 'Arafat, al-Asad, and King Husayn would like to maintain a close and intimate relationship. It appears, however, that the Clinton administration has no keen desire to augment its involvement in foreign policy issues. And while it cannot afford to be aloof where Russia's problems are involved, and the U.S. relations with Japan and the two Koreas require its attention, the Arab-Israeli conflict apparently presents no hazard to world peace.

Israeli doves will be therefore well advised to stop pinning their hopes on the United States' enforcing peace on us and our neighbors-enemies; and if the Rabin government wants peace, it should pursue it in negotiations with the Arabs without side glances at Washington.

It does not matter with whom talks are held. Even if the level of the Israeli and the opposite sides' negotiators is upgraded, the parties will be no closer to the much-desired breakthrough. The important thing is what Yitzhaq Rabin is ready to negotiate with Syria and the Palestinian delegation. There is no need to smash the tool forged at the Madrid conference—the bilateral and multilateral committees; what matters is the content with which he is prepared to enhance that tool.

It is obvious after 20 months that Syria will not agree to share the Golan Heights with Israel and that the Palestinians will not relinquish their demand for the right of self-determination. The latter will manifest itself de facto in state-like independence. If they decide to unite with Jordan after this goal is achieved, Israel will be unable to prevent it. But it would be self-delusion to believe that our consent to such a confederation will exempt us from the need to discuss the Arabs' status in Jerusalem and the future of the settlements.

Up till now, Yitzhaq Rabin has hoped that the interim arrangement will defer the need to address these two complicated problems. Shim'on Peres has been no less hesitant than the prime minister, and both feared the opposition's reaction. Furthermore, it can be argued that only losing a war would intimidate Israel into concessions, and since the Arabs will not take the risk of launching a war, we can perpetuate the status quo.

We may be able to live like this for a while longer. Terror will not disappear, and we will continue capturing fugitives and waging a controlled war in the north. But peace will remain a distant objective, and we cannot be certain that eventually we will not be forced to fight to keep territories, most of which, we should have left a long time ago.

Information Minister on Ross Visit, PLO Coordination

JN1607200893 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1738 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Telephone interview with Information Minister Dr. Ma'n Abu-Nuwar, in Amman, by Ghassan Salamah in the studio; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Salamah] Your Excellency Minister Ma'n Abu-Nuwar: In light of the failure—if this is correct term to use—of the 10th round of negotiations, did Dennis Ross, the U.S. special coordinator for the peace negotiator, bring new proposals on his visit to Jordan and his talks with Jordanian officials?

[Abu-Nuwar] I thank you for your reservation. This is because not all we see on television or hear on radios gives the full picture. It is the nature of any negotiations that the parties hold some information for themselves. Dennis Ross did not bring anything new when he came to Jordan; however, he did try his best to narrow the gap between the concerned parties. He attempted to explore their concepts and ideas. He also raised some points for discussion and consultation, nothing more.

[Salamah] Can some of these points be clarified to listeners?

[Abu-Nuwar] There are no specific points. He attempted to propose a draft paper for the concerned parties to study and respond to so that he can collect new papers, ideas, and concepts that may bring viewpoints closer and will not leave a very wide gap between the parties.

[Salamah] Is it possible to give even a partial assessment of the outcome of his talks in Amman?

[Abu-Nuwar] He himself did not raise any ideas, but, as I understand it, the brother Palestinians tried to clear up as much as possible on two important points. These were territorial jurisdiction [preceding two words in English] and the question of Jerusalem. These two points were conspicuous in the talks that were held.

[Salamah] Are these two points, as Jordan sees them, part of the obstacles facing the negotiating process on the Palestinian-Israeli track?

[Abu-Nuwar] Undoubtedly, these two points fall within this context. Jordan is extending every support to the PLO, the Palestinian negotiating team, and the Palestinian people in order to enable them to achieve their objective of restoring their national legitimate rights on their ancestral land, or, as we called it, territorial jurisdiction, especially with regard to the issue of Jerusalem.

[Salamah] Before the beginning of the ninth round, the Arab parties reaffirmed their solidarity with the Palestinian position. They even declared that they would not go to the negotiating table without the Palestinian delegation. Has Ross carried an invitation for a next round of talks? Is this still the Arab position, do you believe, with regard to this issue—the question of participation?

[Abu-Nuwar] No invitation has been extended, and nothing has been said about the date of the next round of talks. With regard to Jordan's position, let me say that we support all that the Palestinian people, the PLO, and the fraternal Palestinian delegation request from us. We have set up a coordination committee for that purpose. We speak one language, from one mind and one heart.

[Salamah] Yes. Let us discuss this subject in particular, the subject of Palestinian-Jordanian coordination. In light of this dialogue, some news media recently reported that six specialized subcommittees have been set up to discuss various aspects of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship. The news media described this event as an important turn in the Jordanian position on the question of a confederation. Will this lead to quicker steps toward a confederation between Jordan and the future Palestinian entity? Or is this merely part of the continued coordination between Amman and the PLO?

[Abu-Nuwar] There is no relationship between the term confederation and all that it means and the activities of the coordination committee. The coordination committee is aimed at achieving an understanding and good coordination between the Palestinian and Jordanian delegations regarding all that is related to the peace talks. As you know, the closest state to Palestine is the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, be it in terms of history, geography, or common interests. Any Palestinian-Israeli agreement will either be to the advantage or disadvantage of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Likewise, any Jordanian-Israeli agreement will be to the advantage or disadvantage of the Palestinians. We and the brother Palestinians are partners to the core in terms of common interests. This committee specializes in coordinating stands, language, and dialogue between the Palestinian and Jordanian delegations so that we can face the rest of the world as far as the supreme national interests of both sides are concerned.

[Salamah] Especially with respect to the peace process?

[Abu-Nuwar] With respect to the peace process in particular.

[Salamah] Therefore, there has not been any change in Jordan's stand and what King Husayn had already declared with respect to the question of a confederation?

[Abu-Nuwar] This issue is premature. The joint sentiments and interests of the two peoples are too strong and deep to be forced into any framework. In this (?oasis), the Hashemite Kingdom and our leadership will not negotiate on behalf of the Palestinian people. It will not be involved in negotiations over the Palestine question in particular. This is because the PLO is the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. We understand that the Palestinian delegation negotiating with Israel is affiliated with the PLO and derives its legitimacy from it. Therefore, our stand on this issue is

very clear. As for the question of confederation and the like, we and everyone else think that the future of the peace process lies in the establishment of a national government in the West Bank and Gaza and the kind of relations that can exist between this government, or this state—which we hope will come to existence—and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. This question is subject to constant consideration. However, it is not one of the major tasks of this committee.

[Salamah] Your Excellency Jordanian Information Minister Ma'n Abu-Nuwar, thank you.

[Abu-Nuwar] Thank you.

Al-Majali Rules Out Confederation Before Self-Determination

JN1907133493 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has said the Elections Law has not been amended, and that the law is still in force. He added: If we find that public opinion favors the amendment, we will amend it.

He said that according to the Constitution, his majesty the king orders the elections, and the Prime Ministry decides the date of these elections.

In an interview with the London-based Saudi magazine AL-WASAT, he said confederation with Jordan will not be formed before the Palestinian people attain their right to self-determination. Only then, we will make a decision on a confederation, a federation, or any other form.

In this context, he said the Jordanian-Palestinian committees, which have been recently formed, will coordinate the joint issues during the transitional stage or the final stage.

Answering a question on whether Jordan accepts an Arab-Israeli solution that does not call for the return of Jerusalem to Arab sovereignty, the prime minister said: The Arab side, and not only Jordan, cannot accept a solution that does not provide for the return of Jerusalem to Arab sovereignty. His Majesty King Husayn and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan will not accept anything short of the return of the sovereignty of Jerusalem to the Arab side. This is something basic and known, but the negotiations stand as the way for the return of Jerusalem to Arab sovereignty.

Comments on Blockade

JN1807191293 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali this evening met with a delegation of professors and students of three U.S. universities that are touring the region.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali reviewed the situation in Jordan and the Middle East, and the state of affairs that prevailed before the end of the Cold War era and before the Gulf crisis, and the changes in the world, in the region, and in Jordan, following these two events. [passage omitted]

Dr. al-Majali said the U.S. Administration continues to have an effective role in pushing the peace process ahead in the bilateral negotiations in Washington. He also discussed the role that the advanced industrial countries, such as Japan and the EC, have in the multilateral talks. He noted that if peace is attained, it will depend on the participation of many world countries and their interaction with this important part of the world.

Dr. al-Majali then reviewed the results of the Gulf crisis—Jordan's problems from the continued blockade on the al-'Aqabah Port, the drop in Jordanian exports to the major markets in the Gulf and Iraq, the increase in the cost of imports due to the increase in the cost of freight and insurance of ships. He explained that Jordan, despite the results of its explicit stands and insistence on the Arab solution to the crisis, believes that, in the end, this solution is the best course for the restoration of Arab solidarity among the members of the one family. [passage omitted]

Crown Prince Hasan Meets With Faysal al-Husayni

JN1707153793 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the Regent, met at the Royal Hashemite Court today with Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, overall head of the Palestinian negotiating team to the Middle East peace talks. They talked about Jordanian-Palestinian ties, against the backdrop of recent consultations between the two sides. Their discussions also covered maintenance work being done to holy places in Jerusalem, with special emphasis on the Dome of the Rock and the al-Aqsa Mosque. His highness and al-Husayni underscored the need to mantain the Arab-Islamic character of the holy sites, and to extend support for Islamic trusts in Jerusalem.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for cabinet affairs.

Al-Husayni Interviewed on Talks

JN1707185693 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian negotiating team, by Shakir Maharimah, Jordan Television correspondent for political affairs, in Amman on 17 July after al-Husayni's meeting with Crown Prince Hasan—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Husayni] In our talks, we touched on several issues related to Jerusalem, the peace process, and the circumstances in Jerusalem, particularly relating to awqaf [Islamic trusts] and its teaching in schools. This was one of the basic issues discussed. We also touched on

the Palestinian plan to hold a conference for businessmen for investment in Palestine. Discussions dealt with all these issues.

[Maharimah] What about the U.S. document submitted to the Palestinian and Israeli delegations, especially after Ross's visit to the region? Is there anything new?

[Al-Husayni] What is new is that we informed the Americans from the very beginning that this document cannot be regarded as a basis for discussions because it deals with the issue of land as a disputed land. Consequently, what we told the Americans in Washington was also told to them in Jerusalem. We submitted two texts on jurisdiction and Jerusalem based on the principle that dealing with the land should be in accordance with the fact that it is an occupied land. If the Americans approve of these two points and deal with us on the basis that the land is an occupied land, we will be ready to discuss other points.

[Maharimah] The U.S. secretary of state is expected to visit the region. What is the importance of this visit to promote the peace process?

[Al-Husayni] The U.S. secretary will come to this region after receiving our texts and after our viewpoint has been reaffirmed for at least the third time. We hope that in this visit he will come on the basis of this viewpoint. If he comes ready to deal the land as an occupied land and recognizes that the objective is to end the occupation of the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967, then I believe this visit will have a great chance to yield fruit.

[Maharimah] Do you expect a U.S. response to the Palestinian demands?

[Al-Husayni] These demands are just, and are based on the terms of reference of the peace process. Failure to abide by these terms or attempting to avoid them will actually be a clear violation of the terms of reference of peace.

[Maharimah] Thank you.

UK's Hogg Arrives on First Leg of Regional Tour

JN1807200993 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] British Foreign Office Minister Douglas Hogg arrived in Amman an hour ago on the first leg of a five-day visit to the Middle East that will include talks on the stalled peace negotiations. Hogg will visit Jordan, Israel, and the occupied territories. He is expected to hold talks with members of the Palestinian delegation as well as Israeli leaders, including Prime Minister Rabin and his Foreign Minister Peres.

[Begin recording] [Hogg] I hope very much indeed, I know it to be the case, that they are now engaging in detailed discussion on the paper. I hope it's possible to achieve a declaration of principles and then to get down to detailed discussion on the interim arrangements for the interim stage.

[Unidentified reporter] Is there a specific role that Britain would like to play so as to bridge the gap between the Arabs and the Israelis in the peace talks?

[Hogg] Our central role is to support the Americans. We think that what the Americans and the Russians have done in sponsoring these talks is critical and therefore we don't have any separate agenda or program. Our view is to be entirely supportive of the American effort. Now, it may be that within the context of what the Americans are doing, it is possible to make suggestions because we have very good relations with all the people who are engaged in the talks. So, we can play a part in terms of encouraging, maybe making suggestions, trying to persuade people to be flexible and generous. But, it's not a different role. We're not trying to cut out a separate agenda.

[Reporter] Is your trip to Jordan only concentrating on the Middle East peace talks or are you going to discuss different issues with Jordanian officials?

[Hogg] Well, by the nature of things. We will discuss Anglo-Jordanian relations. We have extremely good bilateral relations. I haven't been here for some two years, mainly because of parliamentary difficulties back home and, of course, the general election. And therefore, it's partly a bilateral visit to maintian contacts, to discuss our mutual relations, see how we can help one another, but also, of course, to focus on the peace process and that is the most important thing now going on in the Middle East. [end recording]

Confers With al-Hasan

JN1907102093 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, received Douglas Hogg, British minister of state for foreign affairs, and his delegation at the Foreign Ministry this morning.

Talks dealt with bilateral relations and ways of developing and bolstering them in various fields. Al-Hasan briefed Hogg on the democratic march in Jordan and expressed eagerness to render it successful.

In-depth discussions were held on the developments of the peace process and the results of the 10th round of peace talks. The Jordanian side expressed its commitment to the peace process and the principles on which it was based for reaching a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace. Al-Hasan expressed hope that the United Kingdom and the EC will play a more effective role in the peace process. He appreciated the role played by the United Kingdom and the EC within the framework of the multilateral talks.

The two sides discussed a number of regional and international issues of mutual interest, especially developments in Bosnia- Hercegovina. The Jordanian side stressed the need to find a solution to end this tragedy and bloodshed.

For his part, the British minister valued the democratic march in Jordan, stressing the need to support and entrench it. He also valued the role Jordan plays through its participation in international peacekeeping forces in various parts of the world.

Received by Prime Minister

JN1904140093 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali received Douglas Hogg, British minister of state at the Foreign Office, in his office at the Prime Ministry today in the presence of Talal al-Hasan, the Jordanian minister of state for foreign affairs, and the British ambassador in Amman. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed developments in the Middle East region, the results of the peace process, and means to push the bilateral and multilateral talks forward.

The prime minister stressed Jordan's concern about achieving a just peace that includes all parties in the region and restores to the Palestinians their full legitimate rights. He welcomed Britian's role and efforts in this direction.

Hogg said that his country is interested in seeing the peace process bear fruit. He noted Britain's concern over the status of the Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories in terms of providing economic aid from within the EC and pressuring the Israeli Government to stop building settlements. Moreover, the two sides discussed bilateral relations.

Prime Minister al-Majali explained to the visiting official the stage that Jordan is currently going through in terms of its economic reform and democratic life. He explained that the Jordanian family is leading an example that should be followed in societies seeking to achieve progress and prosperity and to cope with the rest of the world.

Minister Denies Knowledge of UN Demand for Oil Payment

JN1707161693 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Jul 93 p 10

[By P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Senior officials said Friday [17 July] they had no knowledge of a reported United Nations demand that Jordan pay 30 per cent of the value of the Iraqi oil it receives to a U.N. compensation fund if Baghdad and the world body reach an agreement on a one-time sale of Iraqi oil.

"I am not aware of any such demand," said Finance Minister Sami Qammuh, "Nor do I think such a demand is practical since Iraqi oil supply to Jordan is in settlement of its debts to the Kingdom.

Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Jawad al-'Anani also said the government did not have any knowledge of such a U.N. approach.

"We don't even know whether and how the Iraqi oil supply to Jordan is included in the proposed $1.6 billion Iraqi oil sale under U.N. supervision," said Dr. al-'Anani.

A report carried by the London-based AL-HAYAH Arabic-language daily quoted diplomatic sources in Amman as saying that the Kingdom would have to pay the U.N. 30 per cent of the value of the present Iraqi oil supplies of 50,000 barrels of crude and 25,000 barrels of fuel oil trucked to Jordan daily.

According to the report, the issue will be raised if and when Iraq and the U.N. reach an agreement on the proposed one-time sale of Iraqi oil.

Part of the proceeds of the U.N.-controlled sale will be allocated to the U.N. compensation fund for victims of the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and to pay for U.N. costs related to the Gulf war ceasefire.

Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Walid 'Asfur described the report as "groundless."

"I do not know of any such request," Dr. 'Asfur was quoted as saying by the AL-RA'Y Arabic daily.

Source close to the Iraq-U.N. discussions also said they were not aware of the Iraqi oil supply to Jordan being discussed at the world body in the context of the negotiataions which recessed Thursday pending Baghdad's response to U.N. proposals.

"It is a logical demand under U.N. Security Council resolutions that would apply not only to Jordan but also to other countries as and when the sanctions against Iraq are totally lifted," said a U.N. source. But it is not being discussed here now."

"The effort here is to reach an agreement with the Iraqis on an immediate one-time sale which will be strictly controlled by the U.N.," said the source, who preferred anonymity.

The source noted that Security Council resolutions demand that Iraq pay war reparations and compensate victims of its invasion of Kuwait as well as U.N. costs for monitoring and implementing the terms of the ceasefire which ended the Gulf war of 1991.

In the context of an end to the sanctions against Iraq and the resumption of a free flow of Iraqi oil to the market, some mechanism has to be in place to ensure that part of the proceeds goes to the compensation fund," the source said.

The U.N. source as well as officials here hypothesised that any demand that Jordan pay any part of the value of the Iraqi oil supply to the Kingdom under present conditions would pose more questions that the purported proposal could answer.

These questions would include the linkage between the quantity that Iraq might be allowed to market in a one-time sale, the price applicable, the time when the arrangement would run out and how the U.N. could address the basic Jordanian argument that the Kingdom is receiving Iraqi oil in payment of Baghdad's debts and therefore it should be considered as a pure commercial transaction.

"It does not make sense to include the Iraqi supply to Jordan in the one-time sale," said a Western diplomat, "Formulas discussed in the past only concern a situation where Iraq returns to its former status as an oil exporter.

The Iraqi oil supply to Jordan, part of it free, part of it in payment of Baghdad's debts to Amman incurred during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war, and part of [it] in return for food and medicine, is exempt from the international sanctions since no cash changes hands.

AL-RA'Y Views Ekeus Mission in Iraq, Urges End to 'Siege'

JN1907095293 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 19 Jul 93 pp 1, 25

[Editorial: "The Fall of Civilization"]

[Text] It is not true that Swedish envoy Rolf Ekeus is negotiating with the Iraqis about bread, milk for their children, and medicine for their sick in the name of the United Nations and international legitimacy, and in implementation of the UN resolutions and principles. The man is in fact on a mission for the United States, and is carrying a clear message to all Iraqis—accept humiliation and disgrace in return for releasing some oil, whose revenues will be used first to fund the teams of international experts, which amounts to hundreds of thousands of U.S. dollars a day, leaving the rest for buying bread, milk, and medicine.

Because the Iraqis reject humiliation, the siege has continued for three years in the name of international legitimacy, UN principles, the new world order, and human rights.

We are aware of the difficulty of the Swedish envoy's mission because he has to speak to the Iraqis in the American language and manner, and to behave with them in the Western American way although this envoy is a Swede, whose country adheres to morality, values, and principles in dealing with others. However, the UN submission to the United States has left no room for a big or super power to claim to be independent or to voice a shy no to the American master. This has led to unilateral hegemony over the United Nations and to arrogance and racism in dealing with the Iraqis, the Somalis, Bosnians, Russians, Chinese, and other permanent or temporary members of the Security Council.

The international community, with all its governments and nations, is watching the U.S. siege on the Iraqi people with real grief, but also with real horror. It is the first time in history that the deliberate slaughter of an entire people takes place in the name of the international community under the pretext of rescuing this people from their rulers, though the real objective is to destroy this people and their rulers because of their programs to achieve progress, dignity, self-reliance, and rejection of humiliation through obtaining the capability to resist the enemies.

We do not yet know the results of the U.S. talks which envoy Ekeus is conducting. We hope, however, that they will lead to a move toward ending this terrible injustice Iraq is facing and the sufferings and disasters the Iraqi children, elderly, and sick are suffering. We also hope that envoys like Mr. Ekeus will visit occupied Palestine, speak the American language, and behave with the Israeli invaders in the Western American way to defend the real United Nations, which these invaders disdain, and true international legitimacy, on which the Israelis have been turning their backs for more than 26 years without anyone in the West throwing even a flower at them.

Syrian Foreign Minister Arrives for Meetings

NC1607145193 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1058 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived at Beirut International Airport today. He was received by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. The Syrian foreign minister's visit comes in the wake of a visit by Dennis Ross, U.S. general coordinator of the peace negotiations, and before the cordon states foreign ministers meeting.

Al-Shar' made the following statement to our correspondent:

[Begin recording] [Al-Shar'] I will convey greetings from President Hafiz al-Asad to His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi. I will brief President al-Hirawi on the outcome of the U.S. delegation's visit to the region. We will exchange views on the issues that concern both countries under these circumstances.

[Unidentified correspondent] Will a Lebanese-Syrian summit conference be held in the near future?

[Al-Shar'] As far as I know, a Syrian-Lebanese summit will be held soon.

[Correspondent] There are hostile Israeli military concentrations facing the Syrian Arab forces in the al-Biqa' plain. How will Syria handle a new Israeli aggression?

[Al-Shar'] Aside from Israel, there is no other country in the world that considers resistance illegal and Israeli occupation legal. We are engaged in a peace process and this process must yield the required results, that is, a just and comprehensive peace based on Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and on the principle of land for peace.

[Correspondent] Should Israel launch a new aggression, how would Syria view future negotiations?

[Al-Shar'] Naturally, any escalation in the military situation will not serve the peace process. We believe that Israel learned from its previous experience of the invasion of Lebanon that it led to major losses of life along with political loss. I do not believe that the Israeli Government will repeat this experience.

[Correspondent] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is expected to visit the region in the next few days or weeks. In view of Ross's visit and the Syrian-U.S. talks, how do you view the U.S. role in pressuring Israel at this stage?

[Al-Shar'] During our talks with the U.S. delegation, they advised us that Secretary Christopher intends to visit the region within the next two weeks. We believe that the prevailing atmosphere is favorable for serious discussions on implementing Security Council resolutions and advancing the peace process. We sensed greater seriousness by the U.S. side at this stage.

[Correspondent] Are newspaper reports that Israeli Prime Minister Rabin conveyed a message through Ross to Syrian President al-Asad requesting a stop to resistance operations in south Lebanon true?

[Al-Shar'] Our position on the resistance is well known. As I said a little while ago, resistance is the legitimate right of all people who come under foreign occupation. We do not accept such messages. No Arab country can act as a guard to the Israeli occupation. As I noted, there is a peace process and we hope that the escalation will stop and that every side will realize that it is in the interest of all to advance the peace process and achieve the goal of the peace process, that is, ending the Israeli occupation and establishing fair and comprehensive peace in the region.

[Correspondent] Is there a Syrian response to the U.S. Congress statement calling for the withdrawal of the Syrian forces to al-Biqa'?

[Al-Shar'] We believe that Syria and Lebanon expressed their position candidly and there is no reason to repeat this well known stand, particularly in light of the U.S. Administration's statement to us that this decision is not binding on the U.S. Government.

[Correspondent] What is Syria's stand on the Israeli proposal for a partial withdrawal from the Golan?

[Al-Shar'] We will not bargain over our land. The Israeli withdrawal must be total.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency Lebanese Foreign Minister Buwayz, how would you comment on the Syrian foreign minister's visit to Beirut?

[Buwayz] When His Excellency Minister al-Shar' visits Beirut, he is among his brothers who welcome him. No doubt, his visit at this time seeks to discuss developments, particularly after the recent intensive diplomatic moves. We will discuss the usefulness of a meeting among the cordon states foreign ministers and setting a date to this meeting in Beirut. We will try to examine the future stages to unify our stand on the developments. [end recording]

Comments on al-Hariri Meeting

NC1607165793 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] We now have direct telephone contact with our correspondent at Quraytim [Palace], where Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has ended his meeting with Minister al-Shar'.

[Unidentified correspondent] The meeting between Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', which began at 1645 [1345 GMT], ended a few moments ago. Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz also attended the meeting. Here is what al-Shar said afterward.

[Begin recording] [Al-Shar'] The meeting with his excellency the prime minister was friendly and positive. We discussed regional developments, Syrian-Lebanese coordination on the peace process, Israel's intransigence, the future of the negotiations, and Dennis Ross' recent tour of the region. I briefed the prime minister on our discussions with the U.S. envoy. We also discussed Syrian-Lebanese cooperation and its importance in achieving a just and comprehensive regional peace in a way that guarantees Arab rights and [Israeli] withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, especially complete withdrawal from south Lebanon and the Golan.

[Correspondent in English] [Words indistinct] Syria's position on the latest violence in south Lebanon?

[Al-Shar' in English] It is obvious that occupation is illegal and illegitimate and the resistance to occupation is legal and legitimate. Israel cannot claim that it has the right to strike at Lebanon because the Lebanese people are resisting the Israeli occupation. I would like to make clear that the Lebanese resistance is stemming from the Lebanese will and they are not operating under the Syrian umbrella. Any occupation [words indistinct] tough and no Israeli aggression and that the peace process is to be resumed in order to achieve just and comprehensive peace in the region. [sentence as heard]

[Correspondent in English] What was Syria's position regarding the peace talks and regarding its presence in Lebanon?

[Al-Shar' in English] You know that, as I said, we are in a peace process, not an escalation process of tension and wars. We hope that the Israelis would remember their experience of 1982, when they invaded Lebanon and the cost, the heavy cost, that they paid especially in the human life and the political cost, the political fiasco and failure. And we hope that they have learned that it's only peace and the end of occupation will be the right response to the present political situation.

[Correspondent] Have you been apprised of the U.S. secretary of state's visit to the region?

[Al-Shar'] We have not been officially notified of the date of Secretary Christopher's visit. But Dennis Ross told us Secretary Christopher will arrive at the end of this month or during the first week of next month.

[Question indistinct]

[Al-Shar'] We discussed with His Excellency Minister Faris Buwayz the upcoming Arab coordination meeting in Beirut. We will@maintain contact and hold consultations to agree upon a suitable date.

[Correspondent] Is next Thursday a suitable date?

[Al-Shar'] Of course, contacts must be held with all the Arab parties. [end recording]

Minister al-Shar' met earlier with Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri for one hour. Afterward, the Syrian minister said: We exchanged views and consulted with his excellency the speaker on regional developments, particularly in connection with the south and the results of Dennis Ross' recent tour.

Meets al-Hirawi, Makes Statement

JN1607165793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Beirut—At 1300 today, Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi received Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and his delegation. Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz attended. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' announced that he had conveyed President Hafiz al-Asad's greetings to Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi. He also said he had reviewed with him developments in the region, particularly the results of the visit to the region by Dennis Ross, special American coordinator for the Middle East peace talks, along with what Syrian officials heard from the American envoy and the U.S. position as a full partner and a fair mediator in the peace process.

Minister al-Shar', who was speaking to journalists following his meeting with President Ilyas al-Hirawi at the Presidential Palace this afternoon, said: Like every other meeting between Syrian and Lebanese officials, we discussed brotherly bilateral relations and ways of promoting them, as well as ways of maintaining the highest level of consultations and coordination.

Replying to a question, Minister al-Shar' said: As an envoy of U.S. President Bill Clinton, and as an official in charge of coordination in negotiations, Dennis Ross briefed us on the U.S. position on the peace process. He informed us that President Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher are interested in this process and that the U.S. Administration is serious in playing the full partner role and the fair mediator to push the negotiations forward. The U.S. delegation, he said, tried to stress U.S. eagerness to be fair in dealing with the Middle East issue and its bases and to see positive results from this process in order to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region based on Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 on Lebanon, and the principle of land for peace.

He added: I briefed President al-Hirawi on our talks with the U.S. delegation regarding Lebanon, and the south in particular, as well as the current escalation in southern Lebanon as a result of the Israeli aggressions on Lebanese villages. We stressed that ending Israel's occupation and achieving peace are the only way to end escalation and tension in the region.

Minister al-Shar' also said that Lebanon wants resistance, and that every nation exposed to occupation, finds ways to resist that occupation. As I said at the airport upon my arrival today: Except for Israel, there is no state in the world that views Israel's occupation as legitimate and the resistance as illegitimate. He added: As Dennis

Ross told us, Secretary Christopher intends to come to the region during the next two weeks.

Al-Shar's arrived at Beirut International Airport at 1230 today. He was received by Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and senior Lebanese Foreign Ministry advisers and officials.

Concludes Visit, Departs

NC1607194593 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' left for Damascus after a visit to Beirut during which he met the president in the presence of Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. He later met Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri.

Al-Shar' announced that his visit was designed to brief the Lebanese officials on the results of the U.S. envoy Dennis Ross' visit to Syria. On his arrival, al-Shar' said a summit between Presidents al-Hirawi and al-Asad will be held soon.

He said the desired result of the peace process is to end the Israeli occupation and pointed out that any Israeli escalation will not serve peace.

Al-Shar' stressed the resistance fighters' legitimate right to resist occupation and announced that Syria can never be a sentry protecting Israeli occupation.

He said there must be no haste over setting a date for the Arab foreign ministers coordination meeting so as to devote more time to assessing the peace process and embarking on a new round of negotiations that can guarantee tangible and essential results.

Al-Shar' said: There is anxiety in the region because the peace process has yielded no result. We do not want the people to feel frustrated at the end of each round of talks.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Musa Arrives for Talks

NC1707165793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Excerpt] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa arrived in Beirut at 1730 this afternoon on a two-day visit to Lebanon. During the visit, he will meet with the president, the chamber speaker, the prime minister, and a number of officials. He was met at Beirut Airport by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and his wife, Egyptian Ambassador Sayyid Abu-Zayd 'Umar and his wife, senior officials from the Lebanese Foreign Ministry, and the Egyptian Embassy staff. Speaking to journalists, the Egyptian minister said:

[Begin recording] [Musa] I would like to express my happiness at visiting this dear, fraternal, and friendly country. I bring greetings to Lebanon from Egypt and the Egyptian people. I am also carrying a message from President Husni Mubarak to President al- Hirawi. I look forward to the talks I will hold with my brother and friend Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. We will discuss several topics: regional issues, the peace process, bilateral relations, and others.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Minister: The United States is active in the region, as demonstrated by Ross' recent tour and the forthcoming visit by Secretary of State Christopher. What will Egypt do to further activate the U.S. role to bring pressure to bear on Israel at this stage?

[Musa] In fact we are doing all we can to consolidate the peace process to make it successful in all its tracks and overcome the obstacles facing it. We play this role out of our belief that peace is the only sound way to restore stability and justice in the region so that more favorable conditions can be created for everybody.

[Correspondent] There is an Israeli buildup in the south and western al-Biqa'. What will Egypt do at the regional and international levels to pressure Israel to end this aggression?

[Musa] We oppose and try to overcome anything that is harmful to Lebanon's sovereignty, the peace process, justice, and international law.

[Correspondent] Do you think Rabin will carry out his threats against Lebanon? Egypt is reported to have made contacts with Israel to end the aggression against the south.

[Musa] What is certain is that we are opposed to aggression against the south, which cannot be accepted under any circumstances. We hope these acts will not recur so that they do not constitute an obstacle to peace and harm Lebanon's sovereignty, which we all try to safeguard and support.

[Correspondent] Minister al-Shar's visit to Beirut yesterday paved the way for a Lebanese-Syrian summit. Will your visit today lead to a Lebanese-Egyptian summit soon?

[Musa] We support whatever may lead to closer ties. We will discuss the major outstanding issues. However, let us leave it to our meeting at the ministerial level and my discussion with President al-Hirawi tomorrow.

[Correspondent] Regarding the coordination meeting [among Arab ministers concerned with the peace process], do you support convening such a meeting in Beirut before or after Christopher's tour?

[Musa] It is supposed and expected to be held in Beirut. However, a decision is yet to be made on the matter.

[Correspondent] How do you view the 11th round of peace talks in light of the regional and international activity?

[Musa] You mean the coming one?

[Correspondent] Yes.

[Musa] With hope.

[Correspondent] You played a role in bringing closer the views of the Palestinians and the Israelis. Has any progress been made in the Palestinian-Israeli track following Ross' tour in the region?

[Musa] Generally speaking, yes I believe there is some progress.

[Correspondent] How true are the reports about a meeting between [Israeli Foreign Minister] Peres and Palestinian official Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas]?

[Musa] I believe they are not true.

[Correspondent] You mean it is a rumor?

[Musa] Of course; it is clear that it is a rumor.

[Correspondent] At the end of the 10th round of talks, Lebanon received a Zionist proposal that the Lebanese Foreign Ministry viewed as a negative proposal and [words indistinct]. Will you urge the Lebanese Government to continue the negotiations?

[Musa] I think it is the Lebanese Government's decision to continue the talks. We have not been informed that the Lebanese Government has rejected continuing the negotiations. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Notes Efforts To Calm Situation in South

NC1807081193 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Official Lebanese-Egyptian talks between Foreign Ministers Faris Buwayz and 'Amr Musa are scheduled to begin at the Bustrus Palace at 1100 today in the presence of a number of advisers and ambassadors.

The Egyptian foreign minister told our radio that he keeps talking to the Israelis and others on ways to calm the situation in south Lebanon to make the region's peace process a success.

Comments on Objective of Visit, Peace Talks

NC1807111293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0847 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Beirut, 18 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has affirmed Egypt's great interest in Lebanon's stability and safety and in Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

In a radio interview today, Musa said that during their meetings with Israel and other parties to monitor the situation in Lebanon, Egyptian officials have always stressed the need to calm the situation in the south to help make the peace process a success.

Asked whether escalation in southern Lebanon had anything to do with attempts by some to frustrate the peace negotiations, the foreign minister said that there are many opinions on this issue and that many accusations have been made. He said he did not want to discuss this matter at random.

'Amr Musa stressed the importance of giving the peace process a chance. Even if there is a connection between escalation in the south and an attempt to hurt negotiations, he adds, it will never lead to frustrating the peace process. He said we will all work to continue the peace process because it is the only proposed alternative. He clarified that there are no rejectionist forces on the Arab and Israeli sides.

Asked whether his current visit to Beirut is designed to convince Lebanon that raising the negotiations to the foreign minister level is necessary to ensure success in the coming 11th round, Musa said: No. We are not convinced of this. The coming round of negotiations will enter a very detailed stage. If we succeed in what we are doing now and establish the appropriate atmosphere, then we should start discussing the proposed issues, such as withdrawal and other related matters. These issues require experts.

Answering a question on whether participating in the multilateral talks is a condition for more effective U.S. intervention in them, 'Amr Musa said: I do not believe so.

On his expectations regarding the scheduling of the 1th round of talks, Musa said: We are hopeful that this round, when it does convene, will have documents prepared for the various courses so that we can work on them. This applies to the Palestinian, Syrian, and Lebanese courses.

Holds News Conference With Buwayz

NC1807143093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Beirut, 18 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has expressed his pleasure at visiting Lebanon upon the instructions of President Husni Mubarak. Musa said that he will meet Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi later today to hand him a message from President Mubarak. Musa expressed appreciation for the Lebanese Government and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. This came at a news conference Musa and Buwayz held jointly following their meeting at the Foreign Ministry today.

Musa said that he will discuss bilateral ties in his meetings tomorrow with Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri. The Egyptian foreign minister said that his talks with Buwayz focused on bilateral ties, the peace process, and the Arab situation in general. He noted the similarity of his opinions and those of Buwayz on those matters.

Musa said that a joint Egyptian-Lebanese committee will meet soon to continue examining the topics broached during the recent visit to Cairo by Prime Minister al-Hariri. The committee, he added, will discuss bilateral

relations, economic ties, joint investment, cultural relations, and cooperation in general.

Musa said that he and Buwayz discussed the peace process in light of the recent round of negotiations and the talks U.S. envoy Dennis Ross held in the region. Musa said that he and Buwayz also discussed the coming visit to the region by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher as well as preparations for the 11th round of bilateral talks. The Egyptian foreign minister disclosed that the foreign ministers of the cordon states will hold a meeting following Christopher's regional tour.

Asked about Egypt's position on Israeli attacks on south Lebanon and western al-Biqa', Musa said that Egypt has repeatedly expressed its position on that matter. Egypt has a clear position concerning the need to preserve and respect Lebanon's sovereignty in the face of such attacks. Egypt, he added wants to see the peace process continue and the principle of exchanging land for peace upheld. We want all the occupied Arab lands to be returned to their owners and the existing situation to end, Musa stated. We oppose any aggression against Lebanon, he added.

Replying to a question on whether Egypt believes that resistance would advance or impede the negotiations, Musa said that the negotiations have a certain mechanism. The aim of the talks is to have Israel withdraw from all the land it occupied in 1967 and give the Palestinians their rights. We are against anything conflicting with the achievement of that aim. We all reject occupation. It is normal to reject occupation, Musa said, adding: Right now, we have a way of ending that occupation. We have to take this opportunity and use it to achieve Arab rights.

Asked about his assessment of the peace negotiations, Musa said: I believe that the talks have produced some positive points that we should build upon. It is particularly significant that the negotiations have moved away from generalities and formalities, such as who is to negotiate with whom, and on to matters of substance and exchanging proposals.

Asked what is meant by the difficult choices facing the Arabs, which was contained in a statement made by a U.S. State Department spokesman, the Egyptian foreign minister said that difficult choices face all the parties. He said that there are difficult choices involved in reaching an agreement on certain matters. The peace process, as is known, will produce an agreement and commitments and will guarantee certain rights, he added.

The Egyptian foreign minister pointed out that the difficult choices do not represent insurmountable obstacles to the Arab side. He said that the Arab side is ready to deal with these choices as long as this happens within the context of Resolution 242 and the UN Charter and leads to a just peace.

Musa reiterated his pleasure at the close relations between Egypt and Lebanon and for the vitality of their cooperation.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said that his talks with Foreign Minister Musa dealt with bilateral relations and the economic cooperation between the two countries. The talks also dealt with the trade exchange and the rectification of the trade balance between Egypt and Lebanon. He said: We have also discussed agreements concerning the exchange of prisoners, the guaranteeing of Lebanese investments in Egypt, and the presence of Egyptian nationals in Lebanon and Lebanese nationals in Egypt. Buwayz added: We will attempt to prepare projects to submit to the Higher Lebanese-Egyptian Committee.

The Lebanese foreign minister noted that the talks touched on the peace issue and Christopher's upcoming tour of the region. We have assessed the previous rounds of negotiations and our concept of the future of these negotiations, Buwayz said.

The Lebanese foreign minister said: We still believe that the Israeli side has not shown enough seriousness. We also feel that the U.S. side has not played its role in full and as we wish. We hope that Christopher's tour will clarify matters to enable the Arab sides to continue the negotiations with the required seriousness.

Buwayz said that an atmosphere of seriousness and frankness prevailed during his talks with 'Amr Musa, adding: I can say that our views were identical on all matters. We hope that Egypt, which enjoys a distinguished position and has an asset in the peace process and strong international ties, will always support the Lebanese stand.

To a question whether Lebanon will ask Christopher to visit Beirut during his upcoming tour of the region, Buwayz said: We will see when everything becomes clear concerning this tour.

Asked if a date has been set for the 11th round of negotiations, Buwayz said that nothing has been decided yet.

Reviews Egypt's Role in Peace Talks

NC1807193093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1745 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Beirut, 18 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has affirmed that Egypt does not play the role of mediator in the peace process because it is a principal Arab party committed to the Arab principles, notably total Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied territories, restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, and implementation of the UN resolutions.

Speaking at a meeting with the chief editors of Lebanese newspapers this evening, Musa said that Egypt's role has become one demanded by all the parties to the negotiations, be it the Arab countries, the United States, Russia,

or Europe. He affirmed that the United States and Israel are aware of Egypt's adherence to and insistence on the idea that what was implemented under the Camp David agreements regarding total withdrawal from Egyptian territory must be literally implemented in the Golan and Lebanon. He said: What we have accepted with regard to Egypt is what we accept with regard to the other Arab parties.

The foreign minister affirmed that Egypt can present working papers to the negotiating parties if it is asked to do so. He noted that Egypt has indeed offered its technical and legal expert assistance to the Arab parties to promote the peace process.

During his one-hour meeting, Musa explained that Egypt defends and promotes the national rights and positions, utilizing all existing possibilities to hold discussions with Israel at any time with the support of the United States. He noted that Egypt was the first to raise the issue of Jerusalem in the peace talks with Israel, as well as the issues of the Israeli settlements and the Palestinian autonomy as a transitional stage. He also noted that Egypt negotiated at Camp David according to the principle of land for peace, that is to say the occupation of Arab territory as it has been until now is unacceptable.

Musa told the chief editors of the Lebanese newspapers that when the appropriate time comes to publicize the positions of the parties in the peace talks, everyone will know how strongly Egypt adhered to the national constants for the benefit of the Arab position. He said that Jerusalem is part of these constants and is one of the constants in the European and international policies, and no one can deny this. He emphasized that no one has yet accepted any specific status for Jerusalem.

The foreign minister explained that the bilateral peace negotiations have now reached what can be regarded as the essence of the problem after all procedural issues have been resolved. He added that the Palestinians and the Israelis are now discussing a U.S. working paper to reach agreement on a common acceptable document. These discussions have come a long way.

Musa said that the Palestinian autonomy issue is also one of the Arab constants. Autonomy can turn occupation into a temporary situation under which the Palestinians can exercise self-rule in preparation for the next stage.

He said: We know that Israel is a difficult negotiator. For this reason, we told our Arab brothers not to suspend the negotiations and propose as many changes as necessary to any proposal made until the desired document is agreed upon. He noted that Israel's proposals to Egypt were worse than what is being proposed today. Nevertheless they reached an agreement on total withdrawal.

Musa affirmed that the Arab states are in a race with time on all levels, because any suspension in the negotiations will mean the establishment of more settlements in the occupied areas. Therefore, we attach extreme importance to the continuation of these negotiations, while rejecting any violation of our rights.

The foreign minister affirmed that a clear position regarding the ending of settlement-building in the occupied territories must be made when the Palestinian autonomy agreement is signed. This should be part of the memorandum of understanding regarding all the responsibilities pertaining to autonomy, whether with regard to the territorial jurisdiction or the legislative authority. This will make up the constitution, which will be implemented by an arbitration committee.

Musa affirmed that if the autonomy succeeds it will be an important step toward formulating the final situation. He pointed out that the autonomy is a phased rule, and it has been agreed that this rule will last for a five-year transition period. The negotiations for the final solution will start after three years, he said. Musa said that this transition period does not represent a solution to the Palestinian issue, but it will be a prelude to achieving the final solution.

Asked to draw a comparison between the autonomy currently being presented and the one that was stipulated in the Camp David accord, Musa said: Had the Camp David accord's autonomy formula been accepted, we would have been in a much better position on all tracks now.

Musa said that the talks on the various courses have demonstrated cohesion and coordination among the Arab stands with the presence of some independence concerning the bilateral negotiations.

Asked to assess the U.S. position, the Egyptian foreign minister said: I am confident that what the U.S. Administration led by President Bill Clinton is doing shows a desire to achieve all-out peace through the negotiations. He stressed that all signs indicate that the United States strongly supports the peace process, noting that there are no vital differences between the Bush administration and that of President Clinton. There is rather a continuation of the policy toward the Middle East peace process, Musa added.

As regards the Israeli Government, Musa said that this Israeli Government was elected to bring peace. He said: It will be a sound decision to respond to everything that Israel proposes instead of rejecting it completely.

Continuing, Musa said: We must say no to any new settlement. We also must affirm that the territorial jurisdiction should involve all the territories occupied in 1967 and that there should be a connection between this jurisdiction and Jerusalem and the occupied territories. He stressed the importance of presenting logical stands to enable the talks to ride out any crises and to call on the U.S., European, and world roles to support the Arab rights.

On the tense situation in southern Lebanon and Israel's refusal to withdraw from the occupied territories, Musa

said: Certainly, continuing the negotiations process will swiftly end these attacks and the tense situation in the south. He also called for focusing on the settlement formulas, which are the subject of discussion now.

He said that he can see some indications that Israel may consider Resolution 425, adding that these indications will increase until the resolution is implemented. Musa said: Since Israel is referring to Resolution 425 [word indistinct], we must make this expression more abiding in terms of the final agreement and Israel's withdrawal from all the Lebanese territories.

Asked to assess the outcome of the previous rounds of peace negotiations, Musa said that these negotiations could achieve results. He said that tangible results should be achieved on all tracks before the end of 1993, or the credibility of the Middle East peace process will suffer. He said that the previous rounds did not succeed, but they did not fail either.

The foreign minister said that Egypt's basic role in the peace process cannot be influenced by certain recent terrorist operations, noting that this role expresses a complete Egyptian view and Egypt's adherence to achieving a just settlement and supporting the united Arab stand.

Musa praised the multilateral negotiations. He said that Egypt raises issues that concern the Arab nation, particularly the issues of security, disarmament, refugees, and water. He said all these issues are quite important to the future of this region and to preparing it for the post-peace stage.

Musa stressed that the Damascus Declaration is not directed against any state. It is rather meant to defend Arab security in the Gulf region. He said that this declaration will not be a substitute for the Arab Defense Pact or the new Arab order.

Conveys Mubarak Message to al-Hirawi

NC1807200793 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi held a round of talks with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa in Zahlah this evening. Musa said after the meeting that he handed President al-Hirawi a message from his Egyptian counterpart Husni Mubarak pertaining to relations between the two countries and developments in the peace process. He added that he heard from President al-Hirawi an analysis regarding the peace process and the talks on the Lebanese-Israeli track. He said that they also discussed the topics raised in the talks with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz.

Asked whether the Israeli prime minister's position is conducive to the peace process, he said: Of course not. Asked whether he conveyed an invitation to President al-Hirawi to attend a Lebanese- Egyptian summit to discuss the peace process, Musa said: Everything is possible. We are against anything that obstructs this process. As long as the peace process is the course available now and its objective is land for peace, we have a duty to support it, provided it proceeds in the right direction—that is, the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338, which affect all the parties, and Resolutions 425 and 426, which affect Lebanon. He said: The process is continuing and has not failed, and we hope that things will proceed forward and all efforts will be mobilized to support this process and to achieve a just peace that will make it possible for us as Arabs to regain our lands and the rights of the Palestinian people.

President al-Hirawi is currently holding a dinner banquet in honor of the Egyptian minister, attended by Egyptian Ambassador to Lebanon Sayyid Abu-Zayd 'Amr and Lebanese Ministers Muhsin Dallul, 'Adil Qurtas, and Muhammad Bassam Murtada, as well as Deputy Prime Minister Michel al-Murr.

Comments on Resolution 425

NC1907065893 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] In statements made to chief editors of Lebanese newspapers at the Egyptian ambassador's residence, Egyptian Foreign Minister Musa affirmed that the continuing negotiations may bring a quick end to the Israeli aggressions against south Lebanon.

He said that he sees growing signs from Israel that it will consider Security Council Resolution 425 and that these signals will continue to grow until the resolution has been implemented.

He added: As long as Israel refers to Resolution 425, we should develop this into a commitment toward a final agreement on Israel's withdrawal from all Lebanese territories.

The Egyptian ambassador [as heard] stressed that Egypt is not a mediator in the settlement process but a basic Arab partner committed to Arab principles. These principles, he noted, are the need for a complete withdrawal from all Arab territories, restoration of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, and implementation of UN resolutions.

Meets With al-Hariri, Comments

NC1907104793 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0900 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa this morning visited Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri. He was accompanied by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and the Egyptian ambassador to Lebanon. After the meeting, Musa said that the talks dealt with bilateral ties and were a continuation of the talks he held yesterday with foreign minister Faris Buwayz. He said: We discussed the peace process and I reviewed the developments within this framework. I heard a report from Prime Minister al-Hariri on the Lebanese views of the peace process. We

also discussed convening a meeting of the joint Lebanese-Egyptian committee under the prime ministers of the two countries. I conveyed to Prime Minister al-Hariri greetings from President Mubarak.

Asked if Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi will visit Lebanon, Musa said that he will visit Lebanon as part of the joint committee meetings but the date has not been set.

Asked about the basis of his optimism regarding the 11th round of Arab-Israeli peace talks, Musa said: My optimism is based on the fact that the final stages of the talks did not deal with the general atmosphere of the negotiations or simple procedural issues but focused on the substance of the proposed problems. This made me optimistic. I did not say I was completely optimistic, because we have not yet discussed ways of resolving these problems. At least serious negotiations have begun on the basis of proposals and papers.

Asked if he sensed a U.S. pressure on Lebanon to halt resistance operations, Musa said that pressure on any country is out of the question. When a country wants anything from another, it has contacts with it but does not apply pressure or twist its arm. This is not proposed regarding Lebanon. There is a government in Lebanon with a policy on peace. Lebanon played, is playing, and will play an important role in the future. What counts is that we should all exploit the peace process for a solution satisfactory for the Arab parties and Israel. The process should be balanced and on a legal basis and primarily involve withdrawal, which we want, in addition to the Palestinian people's rights. Withdrawal is the first move toward peace and enabling us to move on to other stages that we need, such as economic development. We must appreciate the means that would achieve our goals. Musa said that Egyptian experience in negotiations yielded a total withdrawal from Egyptian territory, so why should this not apply to Syrian and Lebanese territory and on the Palestinian track, including securing the Palestinian people's rights?

Meets With Birri, Comments

NC1907112693 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] The Egyptian foreign minister resumed his meetings with Lebanese officials today. At 1010 he met with Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri in the presence of Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and Egyptian Ambassador Sayyid Abu-Zayd 'Umar.

After the meeting, Egyptian Foreign Minister Musa said: The [Arab-Israeli] negotiations may lead to the implementation of Resolution 425. We must give peace a chance and overcome all obstacles.

Musa added that Speaker Birri briefed him on several developments and Lebanon's views on the peace process.

[In a related report, Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic at 0915 GMT on 19 July reports: "After meeting with Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said: Resolutions 425 and 426 have not been shelved. In my view, the negotiations may lead to the implementation of these two resolutions an I do not believe there is an obstacle to their implementation. On the contrary, with insistence and continuation of the negotiations we will make progress toward implementing them.

["On Egypt's stance regarding the U.S. and Egyptian pressures on Lebanon and Syria, Musa said: Egypt's stance is that we should give peace a chance and overcome these obstacles and difficulties. What is required is the restoration of Lebanese and Syrian sovereignty over their territories and the restoration of Palestinian rights. We must proceed in this direction to win international support and impetus toward achieving the withdrawal. This is what is required. We are not required to return to yelling and shrill voices, but rather to serious work. Israel actually withdrew from the Egyptian territories as a result of negotiations and it may also withdraw from Syrian and Lebanese territories."]

Concludes Visit, Departs Beirut

NC1907114393 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa concluded a three-day visit to Lebanon today during which he held talks with top Lebanese leaders on resuming the stumbling negotiations with Israel on the peace process. He also held talks with a number of key Lebanese figures. He emphasized that implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 425 and 426 relating to south Lebanon is not impossible. He said that negotiations may lead to their implementation. He noted that peace must be given an opportunity so that the obstacles may be overcome. He noted that negotiations brought about total Israeli withdrawal from our territory, so why shouldn't this apply to Lebanese, Syrian, and Palestinian territories? He said that we must exploit a balanced peace process in a way satisfactory for all parties. This is the gist of what Musa said today following his meetings with Prime Minister Rafiq al- Hariri and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, and of the statement he made at Beirut International Airport before departing for Egypt.

Samahah on Egyptian Minister's Visit, Peace Process

NC1907083293 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Telephone interview with Information Minister Michel Samahah in Beirut by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz in Cairo; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Your Excellency Minister Samahah, welcome to the Voice of the Arabs Radio.

How do you view the implications, or rather, the outcome of Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's visit to Lebanon?

[Samahah] Musa's visit to Lebanon is part of the normal course of Lebanese-Egyptian ties. The visit is meant to assess bilateral relations between Lebanon and Egypt and emphasize the fraternal bonds that link both countries on the cultural, political, and economic levels. The current stage facing the Arab world and the regional and international developments require the Arabs to close their ranks and bolster their solidarity. The visit comes at a time when we all need to assess the outcome of the Arab-Israeli negotiations in Washington. There is a need for Lebanese-Egyptian consultations following the Egyptian-Syrian, Egyptian-Palestinian, and Lebanese-Syrian consultations yesterday on the summit level between President Ilyas al-Hirawi and President Hafiz al-Asad. Musa's visit to Lebanon gives major importance to our positions before U.S. Secretary of State Christopher visits the region to activate the negotiating process based on the UN resolutions and the Arab rights.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Israel recently escalated the situation in south Lebanon and the tension there is causing concern in the Arab world. How do you view this escalation of the situation? What does Israel seek from keeping the situation in the region, particularly in southern Lebanon, tense?

[Samahah] Israel has not given up its aggressive attitude despite the fact that it sits at the peace talks. This attitude is in line with Israeli actions. Israel resorts to this sort of action every time it feels its position in the negotiations and usurpation of land and rights is not strong. Regrettably, we have grown used to this situation. Through its occupation of our land, Israel harms our people daily. Its actions demonstrate its intransigent stand, which does not heed UN resolutions, the UN charter, or international agreements and flouts human rights and the Arab peoples' rights to their land. We have grown used to this Israeli attitude. We notice that every time a foreign, Western, or U.S. official visits Lebanon, Israel escalates the situation in the south. It also escalates the situation every time we are about to embark on a new round of peace talks. This escalation of the situation that might confuse certain people, the negotiations, and mediators will not dissuade or discourage us. It will not affect our unity or determination to cling to our right to our land or the Arab peoples' legitimate rights as recognized by the UN resolutions and charter. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Denounces Egyptian Minister's Visit

NC1807200993 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Hizballah today denounced the visit Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa is paying to Lebanon and called for an immediate end to it. In an open letter reported by AFP, a responsible source in Hizballah regretted the Lebanese state's reception of the Egyptian official and said that this visit does not honor either the Lebanese state or the Lebanese people. The letter adds that the visit comes at a time when the Egyptian regime has been engaged in playing the role of sponsor of the American-Israeli scheme in our area. The letter also criticized the ugly executions the Egyptian regime is carrying out against Egyptian citizens and called for supporting the opposition voices in Egypt and for the downfall of its ruler.

Fadlallah Condemns U.S. Policy on Talks, Ross Tour

NC1707070293 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Ayatollah al-Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah believes that the tour by Ross and his friends of the region was an attempt to put pressure on the Arabs to concede to the usurping entity. He said that the United States, which was talking about the occupied territories when the Madrid conference began, has now backed away from this stance and has begun to talk about disputed territories. The current U.S. Administration has been transformed into an Israeli administration, in addition to the existing strategic alliance between the United States and Israel.

Ayatollah Fadlallah believes that the recent U.S. shelling of Baghdad and the Somali people does not even ask the permission of the United States. The United States kills, shells, and destroys freely and the world must bow down before its will. We can deduce from these actions that the United States is practicing the policy of the policeman of the world, who issues the verdict and implements the punishment at the same time.

Al-Hirawi Discusses Continuation of Resistance

NC1807172793 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi today toured western al-Biqa' villages adjacent to the border strip. In speeches he made, he affirmed that the resistance will continue until the Israeli occupation ends. He said that Lebanon will not sign a peace treaty with Israel before the other Arab states, particularly Syria, do so. He said in Mashgharah: We went to the negotiations because we hope for security and peace. If peace is not achieved, we will all become part of the resistance. He continued: But so far we have not lost hope for peace.

Al-Hirawi affirmed that Lebanon will continue to resist occupation until UN Security Council Resolution 425 is implemented. He said: Then they can demand from us security on Israel's border.

In another speech in Sighbin, al-Hirawi affirmed that despair is far removed from him. One who has assumed responsibility for the peace process cannot despair. He reiterated that he is with the opposition and the supporters only for the sake of Lebanon.

Regarding the Syrian presence in Lebanon, al-Hirawi said: Our security situation is just getting off the ground, and we are closely watching the situation and rebuilding our Army. When our internal security situation is stabilized we will tell our neighbors thank you; we have reached the age of security maturity; please leave us. But today, al-Hirawi added, we are still in dire need of them.

Notes Need for Syrian Presence

JN1907061193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Excerpt] Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi has praised Syrian support for Lebanon, adding that had it not been for Syria, security would not have been achieved in Lebanon. He added: We do not want anyone to interfere in the issue of Syrian presence in Lebanon, because we are in dire need of this presence.

In a speech in the town of Mashgharah during a tour yesterday of western al-Biqa', al-Hirawi added that during his talks with President Hafiz al-Asad, they did not give up hope of achieving peace.

The Lebanese president said the security situation in Lebanon is solid. He added: We are preparing our army to play its role in achieving security all over Lebanon.

The Lebanese president renewed his country's demand that Security Council resolutions on the Middle East be implemented. He asserted that Lebanon went to the peace talks because it is committed to peace. He added: We demand the implementation of Resolution 425 stipulating Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

President al-Hirawi went on: If peace is not achieved in southern Lebanon, all the Lebanese will take up resistance. The Lebanese president added: We joined the peace process because we seek peace and justice.

He also stressed Arab solidarity and accord with Syria, affirming that Lebanon would not sign a peace treaty with Israel before comprehensive peace is achieved in the region. [passage omitted]

Comments on Israeli Attacks

NC1607200793 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi today said the daily Israeli attacks on the south and western al-Biqa' will not weaken our resolve to defend our rights. These attacks, he said, will not make us break ranks with the Arab decision to continue the negotiations or disassociate ourselves with the international quest for peace.

President al-Hirawi said it is time we all agreed that what is bad for Lebanon is bad for all Lebanese and that what is good for Lebanon is good for all Lebanese.

President al-Hirawi said he is as much a president for the loyalists as for the dissidents. He said: I hear a lot of talk about prohibited opposition and involuntary loyalty. We are a democratic country and everyone has the right to support or oppose the government. The right to oppose the government is protected by the state.

But, al-Hirawi added, the real issue is not that of opposition or the lack of it, but of a country that needs everyone's work and effort. The citizen's problems will not be solved if the public is split between oppositionists and loyalists. The economy will not pick up if the public is divided by slogans. The economic decline will not be reversed if every one of us embellishes his image at the expense of others. The president was addressing a graduation ceremony at Sayyidat al-Luwayzah College.

Mirhij on Motives for Israeli 'Aggressions'

NC1707131893 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Telephone interview with Interior Minister Bisharah Mirhij in Beirut by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] South Lebanon is witnessing serious escalation and tension because of Israeli occupation forces artillery shelling. Everyone asks about Israel's acts to increase tension in south Lebanon.

[Mirhij] South Lebanon is being subjected to recurrent aggressions, which are now escalating because of the political circumstances surrounding the negotiations, as if Israel wants to drive Lebanon into taking political stances against its national interest and the interest of the Arab nation.

Therefore, we are subjected to these threats and acts of aggression without a change in our political stance. Furthermore, we are steadfast and work to respond to these aggressions with all the power we have within the context of our legitimate right to defend ourselves and our national soil.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Does Israel mean to cause confrontation or war with Lebanon?

[Mirhij] Israel seeks to prompt us to change our political stances, which will not happen because the national will is clear and unequivocal in this respect. We are part of the Arab group and we do our best to maintain this political, national, and pan-Arab stance.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Can we say that the Lebanese Army is able to maintain Lebanon's security and safety?

[Mirhij] The Lebanese Army performs its duty in south Lebanon in the best manner in defense of the south and responds to the Israeli attacks within its capability.

As for the public security in Lebanon, it is a joint responsibility of the Internal Security Forces, the Lebanese Army, and all legitimate security agencies. We definitely cooperate and coordinate with the Syrian Arab

forces on public security and strategic security according to the Security and Defense pact signed between the two countries.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Some say that the reason for Israeli escalation in south Lebanon is the presence of foreign forces or foreign intervention in the Lebanese territories. What do you think?

[Mirhij] The Israeli acts of aggression against the south have not ceased and do not take into consideration any of these factors. There is a standing policy aimed at emptying the south of its population to devour it. Israel occupies part of our territory in the south and refuses to implement UN resolutions, particularly Resolution 425 calling for its withdrawal from the territories that it occupies. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-'Aziz] There is grave Arab concern over the continuing Israeli threats to Lebanon. Does Israel mean by this policy and tension in the south to undermine the peace process and maintain tension in the region?

[Mirhij] I believe that by these escalating aggressions Israel seeks to shake the Arab stance. Israel thinks that Lebanon may be a point from where it could enter and achieve these goals. However, Lebanon has become more able to confront these moves for two reasons. The first is the efforts of the state's institutions, especially the army and the Internal Security Forces, in addition to the general cohesion that allows no division over national and fateful issues. The second is Arab coordination, which has improved greatly, especially between Lebanon and Syria to the point where we can now say that there is a unified Arab front. The Lebanese front is no longer alone and cannot be (?separated). [passage omitted]

Al-Hariri: Liberation of South Most Important Test

NC1707124493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has said that we have travelled a long way toward political, security, and economic stability and that the country is daily achieving qualitative progress in restoring confidence between the state and the citizen and renewing confidence between the state and abroad.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony and the inauguration of the Husam-al-Din al-Hariri building held by the al-Balamand University, the prime minister called on Lebanon's youth to declare their freedom from despair. He said: We are at the threshold of starting the great action to rehabilitate the basic sectors destroyed by events. He added: It is the spring of confidence in Lebanon that we are seeing this summer. It is the spring of Arab and European openness toward Lebanon.

Prime Minister al-Hariri added: Ending the Israeli occupation and its consequences is the most important test we are expecting to face regarding our national fate. He said: Lebanon has joined the negotiations because they are the way to liberate the occupied Lebanese territories. It joined the negotiations with the Arabs to stress the Arab commitment. But the negotiations should not under any circumstances whatsoever be used as an excuse for ignoring Lebanese rights and the international community's will, which has recognized and underlined these rights through Resolution 425.

Hizballah's Nasrallah on Resistance, Priorities

NC1807091093 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General His Eminence Hasan Nasrallah has said that resistance is not only a right but a duty. He added that resistance is primarily the duty of the state, which is more entitled to liberate the land for the survival of the homeland and its resources.

Addressing a ceremony in Karak Nuh town yesterday afternoon that marked one week since the martyrdom of struggler Haydar Mustafa Haydar Ahmad, his eminence said: The nation's great ones are its youth, whose minds and hearts have not been stained by Western civilization. They are even greater in our age and have created glory, security, and stability for us.

He called on the nation to explore its latent power through its martyrs to quell the alleged myth, Israel, saying: One of our priorities is to fight the occupier and liberate the land, or to be part of and support political security in the region.

He said: Any nation like ours that is facing dangers must know who its enemy is so it can fight him and who its friend is so that it may stand by him and pursue the path with him. Today, the real enemy of our Arab and Islamic nation is the United States, which considers itself the authority dominating the world and makes war or peace as it pleases to benefit itself and its allies.

He emphasized that there is a genuine front that forms a massive obstacle to the implementation of this arrogant plan. This front, he said, prompts the U.S. Administration to work with its ally Israel to attack the front by striking at the resistance and the intifadah, destabilizing Syria, and isolating the Islamic Republic.

More Israeli Reinforcements Arrive in South

NC1707123293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces have continued to strengthen their positions and bring in more troops and vehicles to the occupied villages in the south and western al-Biqa'.

Our correspondent reported today that enemy forces this morning brought five armored vehicles and 30 soldiers through the Metulla settlement. These reinforcements

advanced across the al-Dardarah and Ibil al-Saqy plains toward the Israeli position in Tilal Kawkabah that overlooks western al-Biqa'.

According to reports from the south, the occupation forces have established three main assembly points in the eastern sector. The first assembly point is in Tallat al-Shuraysah near al-Khiyam town and is comprised of about 25 vehicles, 100 soldiers, and 20 heavy artillery pieces. The second is in Tallat Kawkabah and is comprised of 20 vehicles, about 75 soldiers, and 15 heavy artillery pieces. The third is in the al-'Ayshiyah sector, which is comprised of about 25 vehicles, 100 soldiers, and 15 heavy artillery pieces.

Said Targeting Hizballah Stronghold

NC1707152093 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] According to security sources in the south, Israel brought five armored vehicles and 30 soldiers to the Kawkabah hills today. Other security sources have affirmed that Israel sent fresh reinforcements to the occupied border strip on Friday [16 July] night. The sources said that 14 175-mm artillery pieces have been deployed near Markaba in the eastern sector.

Israel has so far brought 50 troop carriers, 20 Merkava tanks, 26 M-113 armored personnel carriers, four bulldozers, and 43 heavy artillery pieces. It is worth noting that about 1,000 Israeli troops are permanently deployed in the occupied strip, half of which are paratroopers. Some 3,000 members of the South Lebanese Army are also deployed in the area.

The same security sources noted that the Israeli reinforcements are concentrated in areas facing al-Biqa' Valley, where Hizballah maintains an intensive presence. The sources added that a small portion of the Israeli buildup has been deployed in the western sector facing Hizballah's stronghold in the Tyre region.

Meanwhile, Lebanese police sources in Marj 'Uyun have said that Hizballah has redeployed its fighters in positions adjacent to the occupied southern area.

Casualties Reported in Clash Resulting From Ambush

NC1707162993 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1555 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Dispatch from a radio correspondent along the southern border]

[Text] At 1700 today, as an Israeli Army patrol was passing along al-Tiri-Saqiyat al-Naml, it came under a rocket attack from an ambush. A fierce clash between the gunmen and the Israeli soldiers ensued, and the Israelis began sending armored reinforcements to the scene. The area came under heavy shelling. An armored Israeli unit advanced and occupied Tallat 833, which provides an escape route for gunmen. The armed group is thus virtually surrounded. A short time ago, helicopters began to rake the area. According to initial reports received by our radio, there is a dead gunman as well as an unspecified number of Israeli casualties. The raking operation is continuing, and South Lebanese Army units began intervening in the raking and siege operation a while ago.

Meanwhile, 105-mm shells are falling on the surroundings of Haddathah and 'Ayta al-Jabal from Rshaf posts.

Soldiers Injured in Attack

TA1707183993 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] This afternoon, two Giv'ati Brigade soldiers were lightly injured and one terrorist was killed when terrorists belonging to Islamic Jihad opened fire from an ambush at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] tank and armored personnel carrier near the village of al-Tiri-Saqiyat al-Naml in south Lebanon.

Our correspondent in the north Moti 'Eden reports that three terrorists ambushed the unit and fired at it with antitank and light weapons. The terrorists received a Hizballah artillery support. The IDF soldiers returned fire, killing one of the terrorists. They combed the area until dark, but it appears that the two other terrorists managed to escape north.

Three Resistance Members Killed

NC1807064593 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0315 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Two Israeli soldiers were wounded when an explosive charge went off as an Israeli patrol passed near al-Tiri town inside the occupied security strip yesterday afternoon. Security sources said that during a clash between resistance fighters and the patrol members a resistance man was killed.

Ten mortar shells fell at a South Lebanese Army [SLA] post in the same area, wounding one man.

These are the first casualties among Israeli forces since five Israeli soldiers were killed on 8 and 9 July and Israel threatened painful retaliatory measures.

[In a related report, Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic at 0430 GMT on 18 July says: "The Israeli occupation forces shelled several villages outside the occupied border strip yesterday afternoon, particularly Haddathah town. The shelling came after an attack by the Palestinian Islamic Jihad Organization members on an occupation forces patrol near al-Tiri village in the western sector of the occupied strip in which two Israeli soldiers were wounded and a resistance man was martyred. Israel confirmed that two of its soldiers were wounded in the attack.

["Quoting Lebanese security sources in Tyre, Israel Radio said three resistance men were killed in the operation that was carried out by the Islamic Jihad Organization near al-Tiri. The sources added that the resistance men were

killed when an Israeli force blew up a house in al-Tiri village where the men had barricaded themselves."]

Amal Members Reportedly Killed in Clash With Army

NC1907122693 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Security sources say a quarrel between an Amal Movement group and a Lebanese Army unit deployed in Kafr Rumman led to an armed clash in the township's eastern quarter. Amal members Muhammad Khalil al-'Abd and Muhammad 'Ali Hariri were killed in the fighting. Hariri's body was transferred to al-Nabatiyah's al-Nadi al-Sha'bi Hospital. Amal sources said the two died in an Israeli bombardment of the town.

Following the incident, Army forces surrounded the scene.

Al-Asad Meets With Lebanese President 17 Jul

JN1707173193 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1650 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Damascus, 17 Jul (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi in Latakia at 1100 today. The meeting was attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

This meeting was followed by a meeting behind closed doors between President Hafiz al-Asad and President Ilyas al-Hirawi.

The two meetings discussed the situation in the region, and evaluated the stage covered by the peace process over its last 10 rounds in light of the desire to attain a just and comprehensive peace in accordance with the resolutions of the international community.

Emphasis was put on coordination and cooperation between the two fraternal countries and with the other Arab parties concerned with the peace process.

Talks also dealt with bilateral relations. It was agreed that the Lebanese and Syrian ministers concerned with bilateral cooperation in various fields meet in Damascus to prepare the files on developing these relations before the visit to Beirut by the Syrian prime minister.

President al-Hirawi invited President Hafiz al-Asad to visit Lebanon. President al-Asad gratefully accepted the invitation, the date will be decided at the appropriate time.

Al-Hirawi Departs

JN1707181793 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Excerpt] Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi left Latakia this evening. He was seen off at Humaymim Airport by President Hafiz al- Asad. [passage omitted]

Summit's 'Special Significance' Stressed

JN1807093493 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0715 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Excerpt] Damascus, 18 Jul (SANA)—Today's edition of AL-BA'TH newspaper says that the Latakia summit held yesterday between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Ilyas al-Hirawi has special significance due to its timing and also to the various topics it discussed.

In an editorial published today, the paper notes that the summit was held to review the ground covered thus far by the peace process, and to underscore joint action to achieve just and comprehensive peace in accordance with the principles of international legitimacy. Both presidents, the paper maintains, also affirmed the importance of constant coordination of positions among Syria, Lebanon, and the other Arab sides engaged in the peace process.

The paper adds: The two presidents' emphasis on the need to continue coordination among the Arab delegations to the peace talks further strengthened an already unified and cohesive Arab stand, which protects all Arab sides and constitutes a shield against all Israeli political and military breaching attempts.

Concluding its editorial, the paper says that Lebanon which Israel previously viewed as a weak link in the Arab front, has turned, under the legitimate government and national unity, into a confrontation state that is no longer vulnerable to enemy pressures. Lebanon is not willing to relinquish its national rights. Its firmness in this regard is buttressed by the constant support of Syria, which has continued to protect fraternal Lebanon and champion Arab causes.

For its part, the newspaper TISHRIN affirms the need to crystallize a unified pan-Arab position among the Arab states directly concerned with the peace process, and create a supportive Arab camp consisting of other Arab states to help restore usurped rights and occupied territories.

In an editorial published today, the paper adds: The fraternal ties between Lebanon and Syria constantly require the highest levels of consultations and coordination. They also require concerted efforts to agree on a common perspective. That is why any meeting between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Ilyas al-Hirawi always has a special meaning. Summits between Presidents al-Asad and al-Hirawi reflect fraternal sentiments embedded within the hearts of the one people living in both Syria and Lebanon.

TISHRIN goes on to say: Supporting and aiding Lebanon, while it is being subjected to constant Israeli threats, is a fraternal pan-Arab responsibility. It is necessary to safeguard Lebanon's security, peace, and reconciliation. Consequently, supporting Lebanon is a support for the resistance and its legitimate means to end Israeli occupation.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Events have always shown that whatever harms Syria harms Lebanon, and that whatever benefits Lebanon automatically benefits Syria. [passage omitted]

Khaddam, al-Zu'bi Confer With Lebanese Ministers

JN1907142093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] At 0930 today, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received a Lebanese delegation comprising Health Minister Marwan Hamadah, Economy and Trade Minister Hagob Demerdjian, Industry and Oil Minister Dr. As'ad Rizq, Transportation Minister 'Umar Misqawi, and State Minister for Financial Affairs Fu'ad Sinyurah. Talks centered on bilateral relations and ways of implementing the Brotherhood, Cooperation, and Coordination Treaty.

At 1100 today, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi also received the Lebanese ministers of industry and oil, health, transportation, economy and trade, and finance. The meeting was attended by Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, and Dr. Muhammad Khalid al-Mayayini, minister of financial affairs. Talks during the meeting centered on ways of promoting relations between the two fraternal countries within the framework of the Brotherhood, Cooperation, and Coordination Treaty. They also discussed preparations for holding a meeting of the followup and coordination body in Lebanon soon.

TISHRIN Views Christopher Visit, 'Full Partner' Role

JN1707063493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 17 Jul 93

[From the press review]

[Text] TISHRIN says in its editorial today that the expected visit to the Middle East at the end of this month by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher follows the talks held by U.S. envoy Dennis Ross in the involved Arab capitals. TISHRIN notes that U.S. officials announced their intention to continue peace efforts and to bridge the gap between the Arab and Israeli stands.

TISHRIN adds that the real gap is between Israel and the UN Security Council resolutions. The Arabs adhere to these resolutions in word and deed; they only call for implementing the resolutions of the international community on the Arab-Israeli conflict. Meanwhile, Israel has been disregarding the international community's resolutions since 1948. Israel acts as if it is above international laws, norms, and charters.

TISHRIN notes that the peace talks have failed—throughout the 10 rounds—because of Israeli intransigence and refusal to withdraw from the occupied territory. The Tel Aviv rulers demonstrated their rejection of the internationally legitimate resolutions by imposing a tight military siege on the Arabs in the occupied territory, practicing the policy of killing, displacement, and Judaization on a large scale, escalating the situation in southern Lebanon, and preparing the media and political atmosphere for a large-scale aggression aimed at increasing pressure on Lebanon and undermining the peace talks.

TISHRIN says: The complicated Middle East conflict calls for a real solution and requires the recognition of the necessary principles and bases to guide the peace talks. Therefore, the Arab-Israeli conflict cannot be resolved by bypassing the facts of the conflict, particularly the Palestinian people's rights and Israel's occupation of Arab territory.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: The settlements propagated by Israel cannot lead to the peace that is sought in the Middle East. The only permanent peace should be based on just principles, should end the ordeal of the Palestinian people, and should restore occupied Arab territory. Until U.S. efforts achieve the desired objective, the only option is to accept these principles and bases and to work in accordance with them. Inasmuch as Israel is forced to respect international legitimacy and its resolutions, both sides will come closer to the real peace. This is the task of a fair and full partner.

U.S. Urged To Play Full Partner Role 'Honestly'

JN1707201693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1530 GMT 16 Jul 93

["Palestine Broadcast": "Talk of the Return" written by Ibrahim Basyuni and read by Isma'il Yaghi]

[Text] Brothers along the path of revolution and liberation: No sooner had the 10th round of Middle East peace talks ended in failure than the United States acted promptly to keep the peace process going.

The regional tour of Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator for the peace talks, came within this context. Ross discussed ways to enhance this process and salvage it from the dead end it has reached due to Israel's intransigence and its rejection of the principles and frame of reference of the peace process—primarily Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and the land-for-peace principle.

After Ross's return to Washington, reports emerged about an upcoming visit by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the region on 20 July to discuss arrangements for holding an 11th round.

So there is intensive U.S. activity following the end of the 10th round of Middle East peace talks, and documents and proposals were presented and discussed during Ross's tour of the region. Ross also took with him documents and proposals from the Palestinian side to discuss them in Washington. These documents and proposals emphasize that the temporary self-rule should include the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and occupied Jerusalem.

At the same time, there are indications that the Americans are working on a new document related to the Palestinian-Israeli track and that they are trying to put forth some ideas to bridge the gap between the Palestinians and Israelis, particularly with regard to the question of Jerusalem and the geographic jurisdiction of the self-rule.

U.S. contacts and moves will continue as long as Israel continues to be intransigent and to reject Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, which stipulates full Israeli withdrawal from all of the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem and the occupied Syrian heights, and ensured the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

If the Israeli position remains unchanged, these U.S. moves will continue to fall short of what is required,

especially if the United States, in its capacity as a full partner, does not put pressure on Israel to make it abide by international legitimacy and the frame of reference of the peace process.

Israel's intransigent, stubborn stands, characterized by maneuvering and procrastination, have foiled 10 rounds of talks and obstructed the peace process. The Tel Aviv rulers, led by Yitzhaq Rabin and Shim'on Peres, still insist that the Jerusalem question must not be discussed in the negotiating process, but in the transitional phase on self-rule. This conflicts with the terms of reference of the peace process and the U.S. letters of guarantee and assurances prior to the Madrid conference.

In light of the above, the U.S. sponsor is asked to play its full role honestly in order to implement Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, and the principle of land for peace, which the peace process is based on. This requires forcing Israel to comply with these resolutions and principles. Without this, intensive U.S. contacts, moves, and efforts will be to no avail and will meet the same fate of the previous 10 rounds of the Middle East peace talks.

Radio Criticizes Israeli 'Logic' at Talks, in Territories

JN1807195493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: It is clear that the logic that controls Israeli behavior, whether inside the negotiating halls within the framework of the peace process or on the ground as in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and southern Lebanon, is the same. This logic is based on the fact that Israel is free to do whatever it wants inside the negotiations without considering any of the bases of these negotiations. It is also based on the fact that there are no restrictions on Israel's barbaric practices in the occupied territories or on its threats to carry out large-scale aggression in southern Lebanon even though Israel realizes that it could deal a fatal blow to the entire peace process. According to this Israeli logic, there is no difference between the continuation of Israel's manuevers in Washington and its deportations, tortures, closures, killings, and displacements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip or in its threats to carry out aggression against Lebanon.

The truth is, this logic is coherent to Israel. It clearly reflects that the Israeli moves, on both the tracks of talks and on the ground inside the occupied territories and southern Lebanon, complement one another. If, through the peace process, the Israeli negotiators in Washington are maneuvering and prevaricating in order to maintain the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories and southern Lebanon, then it is natural for the occupation soldiers in these Arab territories to adopt the role of oppressors and threaten to use military force in order to further entrench the occupation. We say that this logic is coherent because the Israeli efforts through maneuvering at the negotiations and manuevering with the use of weapons serve one objective to which Israel adheres: to continue the occupation. However, although this logic is compatible with the objective of the occupation, it remains far from being compatible with the peace objective. Hence, one cannot mix the two. If Israel wants to continue its occupation of the Arab territories, then it has no right to wrap its hostile practices in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and southern Lebanon in peace claims and accuse whoever resists the occupation of resisting peace. This is nothing less than lies and deception. Peace and occupation are incompatible. Moreover, military force, arrogance, and barbarism do not legitimize the occupation, while all international laws and norms legitamize resistance. If Israel sincerely wants to achieve peace, then it should abandon the current logic that controls its moves at the Washington negotiations and in the region's territories. Lies and deception will not fool anyone into believing that the continuation of oppression, closures, deportation, and terrorism and threats to carry out an aggression serve the peace process, or that the resistance of oppression, occupation, and aggression can be explained as opposition to peace.

The world should understand that no one in the Arab arena opposes peace, and that the only source of opposition to peace in the region is Israel because it wants to impose on the Arabs a peace or rather a capitulation that is based on occupation. Meanwhile, all that the Arabs want is a peace based on justice, ending the occupation of their territories, and recognizing their legitimate rights.

Paper on Possible Israeli Attack on Lebanon, Resistance

JN1907064193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 19 Jul 93

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-BA'TH today comments on the U.S. secretary of state's upcoming tour of the region and the threats launched by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin could precede Warren Christopher's upcoming tour of the region by carrying out his escalating threats against Lebanon and launching a large-scale aggression against the south under the pretext of striking at national resistance.

Whether Rabin commits aggression or not, the first possibility is no less serious than the second, since both cases threaten the peace process and represent an exposed attempt to circumvent the U.S. role which got close to being serious following the end of the 10th round of peace talks, and here lies its importance.

AL-BA'TH asserts that the Israeli position on the peace process is well known and very clear. Israel's hostility to peace needs no further proof. However, what attracts

attention about the Israeli escalation against Lebanon is the pretext of striking at national resistance, cited by Rabin and others.

The paper goes on: The entire world realizes that resisting occupation is the legitimate right of all nations. No power, no matter how tyrannical, can extinguish the spirit of resistance to the usurper. National resistance, in addition, is a natural outcome of occupation, and will simply cease its struggle once its raison d'etre disappears. This can only happen when Israel complies with the international will and implements Resolution 425.

AL-BA'TH concludes: In any event, aggression against Lebanon will not be as simple as Rabin might think. The occupation has more than one experience with the resistance in the south. The resistance is capable of inflicting huge losses on the occupation, because it is a heroic resistance that does not fear tanks or artillery. It is exercising its legitimate right to defending the homeland's soil and the causes of the nation.

Ba'th Party Official Confers With Chinese Delegation

JN1807192193 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Tartus, the Syrian coast, 18 Jul (SANA)—Comrade Muhammad Iskandar, secretary of the Ba'th Party's Tartus Branch, today met with a delegation from the Central Party School of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee, led by Fu Xianbin, currently on a visit to Syria.

During the meeting, Iskandar explained the party's work and economic importance of the Tartus Province. He also noted the progress in this province under President Hafiz al-Asad's leadership.

The visiting delegation lauded Syria's great achievements, cultural landmarks, and progress, stressing that friendship and cooperation between the two friendly countries, parties, and peoples will constantly grow to achieve their common interests.

Afghanistan

'CIS Forces' on Tajik Border Shell Villages

LD1607171293 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] From 1900 to 2100 yesterday, the CIS forces stationed on the [Afghan-Tajik] border launched heavy artillery and BM-40 rounds against villages in Chahab District, Takhar Province. As a result, 200 houses were destroyed and 80 of our compatriots were killed or injured.

A responsible source at the Defense Ministry of the Islamic State of Afghanistan told a BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY military correspondent that [word indistinct], Chardara, Araban, Tangi-e Bala, and Baluchan villages were burned and destroyed as a result of the attack.

Foreign Ministry Protests Attacks

BK1807163993 Hong Kong AFP in English 1629 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Islamabad, July 18 (AFP)—At least 300 people were killed as Russian troops continued attacks on Afghanistan's northern Takhar province from the bordering Tajikistan state Sunday [18 July], state-run Radio Kabul said. Hundreds of houses were destroyed in the shelling which also rendered some 6,000 Afghans homeless, the radio said without giving details. The broadcast quoting a foreign ministry statement condemned the attacks saying they violated the United Nations charter. It has urged friendly countries to help stop the attacks and also provide assistance to displaced Afghans.

Bangladesh

Opposition Parties Call 8-Hour Nationwide Strike 19 Jul

BK1907040493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] In Bangladesh, normal life has been disrupted following a countrywide strike called by 14 opposition parties led by the Awami League. The opposition has given the call in protest against what they described as widespread corruption in public life.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 0303 GMT on 19 July carries the following Dhaka-datelined report: "An eight-hour nationwide general strike called by 15 [as received] opposition parties and an anti-fundamentalist group gripped the Bangladeshi capital, Dhaka, Monday [19 July] amid tight security, witnesses said.

["Police and para-military Bangladesh Rifles were posted around the city and some patrolled in trucks and jeeps, the witnesses said, adding that activists peacefully demonstrated in Farm gate area as the stoppage took affect from 6:00 a.m. (0000 GMT).

["Schools were closed and shop shutters down, although public employees headed for work on foot or in the few pedicabs still on the roads.

["Most business concerns, however, appeared to heed the strike call.

["However a 48-hour nationwide shutdown and rail and road blockade by the powerful Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) also scheduled to start Monday was postponed after the government conceded to several labour demands, union officials said.

["The decision came late Sunday after several days of on-again off-again talks between the labour leaders demanding higher wages and representation at ministerial level in government, the officials said.

["Major concessions include the release of convicted union activists within six weeks and reevaluation of the basic monthly wages earlier fixed at 950 taka (24 dollars).

["The 15 opposition groups led by the Awami League (AL) of Sheikh Hasina Wajed had called the strike to protest alleged government corruption and to back the SKOP stoppage.

["The Committee Against Butchers' and Collaborators' of Bangladesh's 1971 independence war has also called a similar nationwide stoppage demanding the trial of Golam Azam, the controversial chief of the fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Eslami party, for alleged crimes committed during the war.

["The opposition groups are backing the committee which represents war veterans, families of the war dead, writers and artists.

["On Sunday, the government of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, in an oblique warning to the strikers, said that 230 people had been arrested over the past 10 months under the Anti-Terrorism Law.

["The law allows for the death penalty and stipulates a minimum five year prison term for blocking roads, damaging vehicles and illegal toll collection."]

Finance Minister Leaves for Saudi Arabia, Kuwait

BK1607135293 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Finance Minister M. Saifur Rahman left Dhaka for Riyadh today on a seven-day official visit to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Saifur Rahman will hold talks on bilateral issues with the Saudi finance minister, deputy prime minister, agriculture minister, and petroleum minister. He will also have a meeting with the president of the Islamic Development Bank in Jeddah.

In Kuwait, the Bangladesh finance minister will hold talks with the amir and the finance minister of that country.

Committee To Probe Corruption Charges Against Minister

BK1907110493 Dhaka DAINIK ITTEFAQ in Bengali 14 Jul 93 p 1

[Text] A special parliamentary committee was formed yesterday to probe allegations of corruption brought by Awami League MP Tofayel Ahmed against Major General (Retired) Majedul Haq, minister for agriculture, irrigation, and flood control, and his ministry. Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali has been made chairman of this 15-member committee; the other 14 members are seven MP's each from the ruling and opposition parties.

It may be mentioned that the speaker was entrusted with the responsibility of constituting this committee on 27 June following an allegation brought by the concerned Awami League MP in parliament the previous day against the minister for agriculture, irrigation, and flood control.

The seven MP's of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party, BNP, who are members of this committee are chief whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain; Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mian; Education Minister Barrister Zamiruddin Sircar; Jute Minister Hannan Shah; State Minister for Establishment Barrister Aminul Haq; State Minister for Civil Aviation Abdul Mannan; and Abu Yusuf Khalilur Rahman. The opposition MP's who are included in this committee are the deputy leader of the opposition in parliament Abdus Samad Azad; Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury; opposition chief whip Mohammed Nasim; Jatiya Party MP Barrister Moudud Ahmed; Jamaat-i- Islami MP Maulana Abdus Sobhan; Gonotantri Party MP Suranjit Sen Gupta; and Workers Party MP Rashed Khan Menon.

Outlining the terms of reference of this committee, Professor Badruddoza Chowdhury, deputy leader of the House, claimed that the present government is free from corruption and was accountable to the people.

Speaking on the occasion, Abdus Samad Azad, acting leader of the opposition in parliament, said that the establishment of this committee is a victory for the democratic forces. During the formation of this committee, the minister against whom allegations have been brought was not present in parliament. Suranjit Sen Gupta of the Gonotantri Party described the formation of this committee as historic and called upon the members to work impartially. Barrister Moudud Ahmed of the Jatiya Party hailed the formation of the committee said that the prestige of the parliament will be enhanced if the committee is able to work fairly. Awami League chief whip Mohammed Nasim said that the committee members want to perform an important task under the speaker's leadership. Maulana Motiur Rahman Nizami of Jamaat-i-Islami expressed the hope that the committee will be given the opportunity to work impartially.

It may be mentioned that speaking in parliament on 26 June during its budget session, Awami League MP Tofayel Ahmed alleged that a major share of the 9 billion taka allocated last year for the repair and maintenance of flood control embankments in different parts of the country was misappropriated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Flood Control. Citing Water and Power Development Board Authority sources, he said that no work is given to people other than those working under Majedul Haq, the minister for agriculture, irrigation, and flood control. He alleged that tender forms for such work are mostly given to the ruling party's workers. The Awami League MP further alleged that in many places work is done without the floating of tenders.

The concerned minister, Majedul Haq, has denied these allegations and said that he would resign if the charges of corruption against him could be proved. On the other hand, Awami League MP Tofayel Ahmed, who leveled the charges, also asserted that he would resign from Parliament if he fails to prove the charges.

Earlier, on 27 June the speaker decided to form a committee to probe into the allegations and invited the submission of eight names each from the ruling and opposition parties. The formation of the committee was delayed, as objections were raised to the inclusion of Tofayel Ahmed and Majedul Haq in the committee.

India

Further on Talks With Russia Over Rocket Engine Deal

Rao Expects Moscow To Honor Pact

BK1607160893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1125 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] New Delhi, July 16 (AFP)—Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao said Friday [16 July] that efforts to salvage a crucial rocket deal with Russia had reached a "delicate stage," as the United States exerted continued pressure to alter the contract.

But Rao told reporters during a visit to the northern city of Chandigarh that New Delhi expected Moscow to honour the 200 million dollar deal, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

The remarks were Rao's first on the controversial deal, which Washington says violates the Missile Technology Control Regime.

India's top space scientist U.R. Rao said after a trouble-shooting visit to Moscow that he harboured no doubt Russia would stick to the contract for the supply of two rocket engines and related technology.

But the prime minister indicated that doubts still existed when he admitted that negotiations on the contract were at a "delicate stage."

He added in a conversation with Chandigarh reporters: "We expect Russia to honour its side of the agreement and that is where the matter rests."

A Russian delegation is holding talks with the U.S. State Department on the deal.

Washington, in an apparent toning-down of its earlier stand that the entire deal be scrapped, said it would drop its objections to the sale of rocket engines provided Moscow guarantees not to impart the skills required to build such devices.

The United States believes giving India access to such technology would enable it to enhance a military missile program, and has threatened Russia with limited economic sanctions.

India denies any military application to its space programme, saying it needs the Russian rocket engines to boost payloads of two tonnes and heavier into orbit.

Minister Refutes Objections to Deal

BK1707034093 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] The minister of state for science and technology, Mr. P.R. Kumaramangalam, has said there is no question of India using Russian cryogenic engines for defense application as the country had already developed the Prithvi and Agni ballistic missiles. The minister was speaking at a seminar on India and the changing global scenario in New Delhi today. Mr. Kumaramangalam wondered why various other reasons like the sale being in violation of the Missile Technology Control Regime were being put forward to stop the transfer. The minister said various other factors were behind the objections to the deal. He said new economic blocs were replacing former defense blocs and it was time India's engineers were trained to compete against international technological rivalry.

Russia Unable To Fulfill Obligation

BK1707161393 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] New Delhi has regretted the decision of Russia not to fulfill its obligation of transfer of cryogenic engine and related technologies under the ISRO-[Indian Space Research Organization] Glavkosmos agreement of January 1991. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi today that the Russian Government has stated that in the context of unforeseen circumstances, Glavkosmos finds itself in a situation of not being able to fulfill further its obligation regarding the transfer of technology and production of equipment under the agreement. Moscow has, however, expressed its readiness to hold further consultations with India to deal with the consequences of the Russian decision. The spokesman said the cryogenic engines and related technology under the agreement are meant exclusively for India's civilian space program. Besides, the contract in question contains adequate assurances that the technology will be used only for civilian purposes and would not be diverted or transferred to third countries.

The spokesman said while India may have discussions with Russia to deal with the nonfulfillment of the contractual obligation, it will not allow any setback to India's space technology and space program.

Several political parties have criticized the United States for pressurizing Russia to modify or scrap the deal. The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] spokesman, Mr. R.K. Sharma, said in New Delhi that on the one hand, Washington is advocating improved relations with India and on the other, takes such steps which give scope to serious doubts about her policy.

In a joint statement released in New Delhi today, the CPI [Communist Party of India], the CPI-M [Marxist], Forward Bloc, and the RSP [Revolutionary Socialist Party] expressed their regret that Moscow has yielded to Washington's pressure.

Minister Says Russian Decision 'Unfortunate'

BK1807065893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0630 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] The union minister for state for science and technology, Mr. R. Kumaramangalam, has termed Russia's decision not to fulfill its obligation to supply cryogenic engines and technology to India as unfortunate. Speaking to newsmen at Madurai in Tamil Nadu, the minister said our scientists will take it as a challenge to develop the technology and prove that we are not behind any other country in the technological field. He said Russia's decision can at best only delay our program by two years.

Highlighting India's achievements in the field of software, Mr. Kumaramangalam said software export has gone up to 700 crore rupees and it is likely to reach 3,000 crore rupees in the next three years.

MP's Concerned Over U.S. 'Pressures'

BK1807035293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, has said that India will not compromise with its interests and will develop indigenous technologies. He was responding to members concern expressed at the parliamentary committee meeting in New Delhi regarding U.S. pressures on cryogenic engine deal and the noninclusion of Pakistan as a state sponsoring terrorism. He told the members that the United States wants a dialogue with India on all major issues, but we should not forget that their decision will be based on their self-interest. He, however, did not agree with a suggestion that the U.S. policy has taken an overall shift against India.

Party Deplores U.S. 'Interference'

BK1807131793 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Janata Dal-A [Ajit Singh group] has described as deplorable the American interference in the sale of rocket engine and technology to India by Russia. In a statement issued in New Delhi today, the party national secretary, Mr. Dhirendra Pratap, said the American action is an interference in India's internal affairs.

Commentary Sees U.S. 'Double Standard' on Terrorism

BK1807122293 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Commentary by Sunil Kapoor: "Letting Off Pakistan From the List of Terrorist States"]

[Text] The U.S. decision not to declare Pakistan a country supporting international terrorism makes a mockery of its professed concern about international terrorism. Hitting Iraq for alleged planning to kill former U.S. President Mr. Bush, and on the other side refusing to even list Pakistan among countries sponsoring terrorism despite all evidences, shows American double standard in this matter. It looks very strange that in spite of incontrovertible evidence that has been given by India to USA, clearly establishing Pakistan's sponsoring terrorism across the border, America should give a clean chit to Pakistan. There are statements of the U.S. Government itself on this subject based on its own information confirming this. It is obvious that this decision is based not on objective facts but on other policy considerations. In the words of Mr. (Mackery), State Department's report on international terrorism in 1992 did say that there have been credible reports of official Pakistani support for Kashmiri militants who undertake acts of terrorism in India-controlled Kashmir as well as some reports of support of Sikh militants engaged in terrorism in Punjab. But (Mackery) could not indicate why action under the U.S. law has not been taken on the basis of the findings of the U.S. Government's own agencies.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher has said that the (?move) was dropped as Pakistan has taken steps that appear to have responded to U.S. concerns about Pakistan's support for terrorists in Kashmir and Punjab, and that following changes in Pakistan's military leadership, especially ISI [Interservices Intelligence] Chief General Javed Nasir, and the new people have been more cooperative over the past six months.

Going by the ground realities, terrorist activities in Kashmir have increased considerably with the sneaking in of Pakistan-trained terrorists, including volunteers of other Muslim countries. With the deployment of Army on Indo-Pak border and Line of Control in Kashmir, scores of terrorists have been killed on the border while crossing over from Pakistan or Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and also captured many of them along with most modern and sophisticated weapons. One wonders what kind of assurances were given to the Clinton administration by the new Pakistani military leadership and how such assurances, which have no basis, have carried conviction with Warren Christopher. The U.S. secretary of state has avoided reply to specific question of precise proof that Pakistan gave to the Clinton administration that it has stopped violating the international law by fomenting terrorism in Kashmir. If the removal of ISI chief is the concrete proof given to the U.S., then Pakistan has made mockery of Clinton administration. ISI chief was removed for Pakistan's internal friction and not for transporting terrorism. Again, howsoever important the ISI chief, Gen. Javed Nasir, was but he was not law unto himself and functioned on behalf of the troika that rules Pakistan.

What seems to have weighed with the USA is both current political crisis leading to military rule in Pakistan and the fear that the declaration as a terrorist state may send Pakistan to the laps of China and Iran.

The Indian security forces will have to be given a free hand to end militancy in Kashmir as it has done in Punjab. We all know that several thousand Afghans and mercenaries from some other Muslim countries who fought in the Afghan war have been enlisted by the ISI and fundamentalist organizations in Pakistan to swell the ranks of militants in Kashmir. Between 4,000 to 5,000 armed militants are waiting to infiltrate on our side of the Line of Control of J and K [Jammu and Kashmir]. In addition, Pakistan security officials are also waiting to infiltrate into the Kashmir valley to assess the possibility of joint operation with the Kashmir militants and also to help strengthen Pakistan Army's direct grip over the militant outfits in the valley, who have of late been reeling under the strong blows of the Indian security forces.

Bomb Attempt Foiled at Srinagar Airport

BK1707091693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, a bid to blast the Srinagar airport was foiled by the security personnel this morning. An official spokesman told AIR [All India Radio] Srinagar correspondent that the bomb in a plastic lunch box wrapped in a polythene cover was placed inside a cooler near the VIP lounge. The state Congress-I president, Mr. Ghulam Rasool Khar, and his colleagues were waiting for their flight in the lounge. An anonymous caller is reported to have alerted the security personnel about the bomb. The security has been tightened at the airport.

Iran

Envoy to UN Denies Link to World Trade Center Bombing

NC1807093593 Paris AFP in English 0839 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July 18 (AFP)—Iran's ambassador to the United Nations, Kamal Kharrazi, has rejected an Egyptian charge that Tehran gave the go-ahead for the World Trade Center bombing in New York.

An Egyptian official told NEW YORK TIMES newspaper that Mahmud Abu-Halima, among six Moslem fundamentalists indicted for the bombing, confessed Iranian intelligence agents had approved the attack at a meeting in Peshawar, Pakistan.

Kharrazi, quoted in Tehran newspapers on Sunday [18 July], denied any Iranian links with terrorist groups and said the confession was invalid because it had been extracted under duress.

The February 26 bombing killed six people and injured 1,000.

"This is not the first time Cairo is accusing another country for its problems, and Egypt will not be able to rein in the spontaneous uprising of its people" by blaming Iran, he said.

Usamah al-Baz, political adviser to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, charged last week that Iran and the spiritual leader of Egypt's Islamic militants, Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, both gave the green light for the attack.

Egypt has repeatedly accused Iran of aiding Islamic militants in their battle against the secular government in Cairo that has claimed more than 170 lives since March 1992.

Velayati Tells UN of Readiness To Send Troops to Bosnia

NC1707065593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran has officially stated its readiness to send a 10,000-strong mechanized army to safeguard the safe havens in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In a letter to the UN secretary general yesterday, Foreign Minister Velayati stated that the Iranian forces will be operating under the command of the UN peacekeeping forces formed on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 836.

The foreign ministers and representatives of 16 Islamic countries who met in Islamabad last week agreed to the dispatch of forces from Islamic countries to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The foreign minister's letter to the UN secretary general states: The Islamic Republic of Iran is following with deep concern the unfavorable situation of the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina and it is our firm belief, and the belief of the absolute majority of the members of the international society, that the Security Council should act decisively without further delay to prevent the massacre of the people in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Opposition to Dispatch Condemned

LD1707141593 Tehran IRNA in English 1403 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July 17, IRNA—The headquarters supporting the oppressed people of Bosnia-Herzegovina [B-H] has condemned the opposition of the U.S. and the U.K. to Iran's dispatch of peace-keeping forces to B-H.

In a statement published in the press today the headquarters said the American and British Governments had adopted their new political stances solely for the purpose of diverting the world public opinion from the Serbian crimes. It said they intended to create pessimism towards the humanitarian actions of Iran and the other Islamic countries and were in fact giving overt support to the political and propaganda interest of the Serbian agressors and criminals. "They have thus revealed their protective role for the Serbs," the statement said.

It declared the Islamic Republic of Iran's intentions to give support to the oppressed Muslims of B-H and said they will not be alerted under any pressure or threat.

The headquarters declared that the people and the Government of Iran will continue even more humanitarian aids. "In this way it will prove that determination of the leader of the revolution and the noble people of Iran to act according to their humane and religious duty is as firm as ever," the statement underscored.

The U.S. State Department warned of the possibility that members of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps or the Hezbollah may resort to violence against American and other Western nationals in the former Yugoslavia. "Undoubtedly, the claim regarding the presence of the Iranian military forces in B-H is meant to overshadow the overt and covert assistances of the U.S. and its allies given to the racist Serbs," the statement commented.

"The truth is that the Islamic Republic of Iran has only been sending humanitarian aids on the basis of the Security Council resolutions, within the framework of international regulations and as its religious and humane duty," it said.

It said the only way to put and end to ethnic cleansing and prevent disintegration of B-H is to lift the arms embargo on the Bosian Muslims and to give them a chance of self-defense.

The statement reiterated Iran's support for all actions needed to strengthen the oppressed Bosnian Muslims and to put an end to the crimes of the Serbs.

Commentary Views Troop Offer

LD1707131293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1006 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In a letter to the UN secretary general, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has announced its readiness to contribute to the peacekeeping endeavors of the United Nations. According to the letter, the Iranian Government is prepared to contribute 10,000 fully equipped troops to the UN peacekeeping force. If the secretary general and the Security Council agree, this force will be deployed for the purpose of safeguarding the safe havens in the terriitory of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Iran's readiness to send these troops springs from the desire of the Iranian nation and Government to establish peace in the world. It is also a humanitarian gesture aimed at preventing an aggressive war and subsequent war crimes. At the same time, in view of the recent decision of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] session in Islamabad, and the repeated requests put by the secretary general to the UN members in connection with contributing to peacekeeping efforts, the Iranian Government's move is in line with fulfilling international commitments, and it should be considered as an effort to establish peace in the world.

If the UN Secretariat agrees to the participation of Iranian troops in peacekeeping activities, this force will be deployed within the framework of the implementation of the Security Council's resolutions in connection with safeguarding safe havens in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The issue of an Iranian contribution to the safeguarding of peace has been on the agenda for a while; that is, ever since the UN peacekeeping efforts began in Cambodia.

The question of the presence of Iranian troops within the framework of UN peacekeeping efforts is in its early stages, but America, England, and France, which are permanent members of the Security Council and thus enjoy the right to veto, have expressed their dissatisfaction with this. Their opposition to the ICO decision has in fact no legal basis; indeed, it constitutes a double standard, such as we have repeatedly witnessed in relation to various issues. In other words, not only do the Western countries do nothing to assist the oppressed Muslims of Bosnia, but they also do not allow the Muslim countries, under UN auspices, to prevent the massacre of Muslims in that region.

Unfortunately the United Nations and the Security Council, whose duty is to safeguard peace and establish security, have been transformed into something like a department of the foreign affairs ministries of the Western countries which are the permanent members of the Security Council. Without any regard for the aims and objectives laid down in the UN Charter, these countries use the Security Council and the UN system as whole for the sake of furthering their own national and international interests. This calamity has been present since the formation of the United Nations. However, after the former Soviet Union was ousted from the cycle of power, this phenomenon has gained new intensity. Much political coordination and wheeling and dealing now takes place outside the United Nations and inside the Embassies of France and England, or inside the American State Department. Sometimes, depending on the issue on the agenda, Russia and China are also invited. After reaching agreements in such meetings, the issues and decisions are presented to the world as Security Council resolutions. Iran, which was one of the founder members of the United Nations, is not alone in objecting to this phenomenon; many African and Asian countries are also strongly opposed to it.

Jannati Sees 'Anti-Islamic Movement' in Bosnia

LD1607174293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1049 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Second Friday prayers sermon by Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, provisional Tehran Friday prayers leader, in Tehran on 16 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] First of all, I wish to express my thanks for all the cooperation we received during the week [first week of the month of Muharram when the new campaign started] for reviving the injunction regarding enjoining virtue and forbidding vice. The propaganda organizations, the Voice and Vision, and the press, cooperated well. Friday imams, orators, preachers, and speakers in all cities and villages welcomed the effort and made some points about enjoining virtue and forbidding vices. These are still continuing and should continue in the future.

That week came to an end, but it was only the beginning of the campaign for the revival of the injunction regarding enjoining virtue and forbidding vices. God willing, this work will continue. In the near future permanent headquarters will be set up in provincial capitals with an appropriate format. They will also be formed in various towns after the provincial capitals. Friday imams will have a leading role in those headquarters. They also include other officials, judges, and members of revolutionary organizations. A good set up has been planned, and they will establish the headquartes for the revival of the injunction regarding enjoining virtue and forbidding vice, God willing.

What has been done thus far has been very successful. The measures that were taken by the security forces were good and useful. Of course, in every endeavor there may be certain excesses and difficulties, especially at the beginning. However, these will be gradually put right. Nothing is perfect from the beginning. [passage omitted]

We hope that we will witness a day when the scenes of people's lives everywhere and for everyone will be such that if a young man or a young woman, a man or a woman wishes to lead a pure life he or she will be able to do so; that the scenes would not be such that, God forbid, they would corrupt people's morals. Of course, the battle against laxity and loose living should be waged and

cannot be neglected. We should choose the best method of doing so, and this is something which is being studied. [passage omitted]

The main issues I wish to speak about in this sermon are two, and we should pay a great deal of attention to them. The first issue is about a very powerful anti-Islamic movement which is manifested under various guises and in different places. The ringleader of this movement is America and it is followed by Western countries, some of whom move faster and some slower. Some Eastern countries such as Russia are also following the same policy. In brief, in various arenas they have girded their loins to destroy Islam.

They are blinded by a false arrogance and they imagine that today power rests in the hands of these anti-Islamic governments, and that now and for ever they will be able to do whatever they like and can pursue whatever policy they wish and all people should obey them. They are holding the ring in the middle of the world like a district thug and a knife-wielder and like a gendarme holding a bayonet in his hand and are challenging the whole world.

As an example, they go to Somalia and engage in those crimes. They wish to feed the hungry with their bullets! Even there their anti-Islamic intentions are very clear. General Aidid—for whose capture they offer a reward and whose followers they are killing... [pauses] One of his offenses, which is presumably his major offense, is that his supporters have Islamic tendencies, and this is why they should be definitely supressed and eradicated.

Another example is Bosnia. The situation there is truly cause for shame. I do not know how we can endure this disgrace and how we—I mean the Islamic community—can answer history for all this disgrace, that a large number of people is being massacred in the most tragic way. This calamity is gradually overshadowing the Israeli calamity. Although the latter calamity should never be forgotten as it is a serious threat, the former is an ongoing tragedy that has led to 200,000 dead, 1,500,000 refugees. Can one find a precedent in history for such a situation? They are standing over a person who is on his deathbed and are telling him either die or surrender to us. This is what is being done by America and the West to them. They are preventing all aid reaching them; aid in the form of bread, sugar, cooking oil; aid which is necessary for keeping them alive, not weapons. They say we will either cut off this aid or surrender. What is meant by surrender? It means accepting the partition of their country.

In what part of the world is this kind of behavior acceptable? Why do they boast about defending defend human rights, freedom, and democracy? If it is democracy and freedom, then let these people be free to decide their own fate. What is your business there, telling them come and accept my plan otherwise I will cut off your water and bread?

This is the same policy of Shamr Bin-Dhi al-Jawshan who told Imam Husayn [third Shiite imam] you should surrender or die of thirst. Policies have not changed. In fact all criminals throughout history move along the same line and peacemakers of the world also move along the same line. Only the form of their actions changes from time to time to fit their own time.

Very well, that was the issue of Bosnia. Then the G-7 summit has been held. The United States worked very hard to convince the other members to apply pressure on Iran and condemn Iran, so that the heads of the G-7 would exert pressure on Iran. A part of their designs was not implemented because a number of those leaders moved more cautiously and wisely. That is what they do on the one hand.

On the other hand they condemned the Serbian action during the previous session but in the recent session they did not even mention the name of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the crimes committed by the Serbs. You attend a session discussing political and economic issues. Is this not a living world problem? Is this not a world political problem about which you decide to keep quiet and maintain your deadly silence? Do you think people do not understand such issues? The people of the world will remove such arrogance from your heads. You must be certain of that. I will continue this matter later on in my remarks.

In any case the issue of Bosnia-Herzegovina is another example of this. Moreover when a group of people decided to move in the name of Islam, then definitely it should be suppressed as it has begun in the name of Islam and they help that happen.

France killed one million freedom-seeking people of Algeria during their revolution and was finally forced to surrender. [passage omitted]

Now they are telling the military government in Algeria that we will help you suppress the Islamists. Very well, they are helping them. Britain is currently increasing its mischievous acts everywhere. When it is mentioned that some peacekeeping forces from Islamic countries should go to Bosnia-Herzegovina, they come forward saying, on one occasion, that no force should go from Iran. Why not? Because it spreads the Iranian influence in the region. On the other hand they say the Iranian peacekeeping forces should not go because attention should be paid that if the Iranians go there they would assassinate UN and other peacekeeping forces. They are terrorists and they will assassinate them. That is in fact a statement that anyone would find ridiculous. Iranians care, more than anyone else, for the Bosnians. You do not care for them, but we care for them. It is us who say that we willing to be killed to free them.

This is the difference between you and us. You only consider your own interests, while still rambling on about human rights, whereas we seek to protect human rights, and we sacrifice our interests for mankind and its rights. This is where we differ from you. We do not have any interests there. We have donated as much humanitarian aid as as we have been able to. But right now you

have obstructed such assistance. At present we are still ready to help, and our aid is ready. The moment the way is opened, we will help them, without having any special purpose in mind. There are various kinds of aid involved—such as military assistance—and if we can, we will give them arms.

We have to ask what is it that the Bosnian Muslims want to do that makes them such a target for all the condemnation, through which they are told: Succumb or die! All they seek to do is to defend themselves. They do not want help so that they can capture territories belonging to others. They do not seek to be like you and bully others. They are just saying: Let us defend our lives, integrity, and territory. That is all they are saying. Amid all this, you are standing there, provoking and threatening them, depriving them of food and water.

We witness that overall, wherever on earth a movement with an Islamic coloring is unfolding, America and its followers are moving against it. In a very conceited and arrogant manner they begin to scream from the four corners of the globe. Very well! This is natural. After all, anyone who has power but is not impeded by ethics, religion and conscience, will set out to trample upon everything everywhere, like wild and unbridled horses. This is only natural. [passage omitted]

Well! That was what we could say about them. Now what about us? Confidently and in one single sentence I say: America, and those who follow the policies of America, should know deinitely that Islam and the proud Muslims will definitely defeat them. [crowd chants support]

We tell them the gunboat era has passed. According to the famous saying you can go forward by bayonets but you cannot sit on bayonets. Yes; you can bully, you can kill—which you are doing—you can inflict harm and trouble. And they threaten us saying that because anti-American policy in Iran is rife Iran must be confronted.

Do not threaten us anymore! If we were frightened by your threats we would have retreated from the beginning when our boys, our Muslims, captured your spy den and when the threats were much stronger that this. Islam is powerful enough, the world Muslims aware enough to stand up to you. Now if you are so arrogant and intoxicated and do not understand, that is no concern of ours.

Muslims are getting prepared everywhere. This anti-American move is daily soaring. I don't know whether you do not realize this or whether you do realize it but pretend not to know. Do you realize or not that the loathing for you in the world has increased? Loathing of you was less before you went to Somalia; when you went there it increased. The people of Somalia dislike you. And other people who see you commit crimes in Somalia loathe you more. Do you think killing people brings about popularity; when the people see bayonets they surrender? They will not surrender! What are you doing to Iraq? What sins have the Muslim people of Iraq committed to have this situation foisted on them—such that one's heart really goes to them? You have set a criminal up there and are safeguarding him! If it were not for your support the people would have torn him apart a thousand times over by now. Now the people are forced not have any drinking water, any bread to eat. They are made refugees by hunger and thirst. Do you think the people do not understand this? Do you think the people like such things? Arrogance prevents understanding. Such is the power of Islam.

I am most certain, that is, I am most hopeful for the speediest coming of the complete Islamic salvation [faraj-e kolli-ye Eslami] and the appearance of that imam whom God has preserved for the day when the world is full of tyranny and oppression. And under the auspices of that imam's justice all tyrannies—and the worst and most criminal of all tyrannies, the American tyranny—will be vanquished. That will be, but in any case you Americans are suffering from decadence. His exalted leadership [Khamene'i] described the ethical decline of the West in his remarks, his truly worthy remarks. Ethics are not really an issue there anymore, humanity is not the issue anymore; only interests are the issue. And what interests? Not human interests but those intermingled with tyranny, oppression, plunder, and injustice. Such are those interests! Of course everyone wants to safeguard his interests. But what interest? Those interests which the trampling of the interests of all the other peoples of the world can safeguard? That is the situation. And this state certainly cannot last.

Yes we are ready if you seek to bring pressure to bear on Iran. Our people, from the highest to the lowest, from officials to nonofficials, from cleric to student, from laborer to farmer, and from tradesmen and various strata all have anti-American sentiments. [crowd chants: "God is great," "Khamene'i is the leader," "Death to America"]

Thank you. Allow me please. You, the United States, have understood well that the anti-American atmosphere is high in Iran. That you have gathered well in spite of all your lack of understanding [nafahmiha]. And that atmosphere will not be broken by threats. Know that! And Islam has trained our people in the way that was demonstrated during the eight-year war. They are prepared to give up everything to safeguard their Islamic values. What can you do against such people? The final act is death after all; it cannot go beyond death. Well that is what our martyrdom-seekers are after, are wishing for, and they are unhappy that they did not achieve their wish during the eight-year war. I end my humble remarks here. [passage omitted]

Commentary Links Gulf Exercises to Western Ambitions

NC1807191793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] U.S., UK, and Kuwaiti forces have since yesterday been holding joint Navy drills in Kuwait's territorial water in the Persian Gulf. The five-day maneuvers are taking place only 30 km off the Iraqi coast. The head of the U.S. Navy's Central Command said that the aim of these exercises is to test the readiness of the Kuwaiti, UK, and U.S. troops.

It is worth noting that since signing one defense agreement in March 1991 with the United States and another with Britain in March 1992, Kuwait has held several land, sea, and air maneuvers with both countries, the most recent of which was last month. Kuwait also signed a defense agreement with France in August 1992 and held joint maneuvers with that country last month. Bahrain, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates all signed defense agreements with one or more of the three countries mentioned above.

Recently, Kuwait announced its intention to turn the two strategic Kuwaiti islands Warbah and Bubiyan, situated close to the shore, into permanent military bases on which to hold joint military maneuvers with other countries.

Signing defense agreements with the Persian Gulf littoral states and holding costly joint maneuvers with these countries are two features of Western, particularly U.S., strategy. The aim of this strategy is to control the region and make profitable arms sales to the members of the Gulf Cooperation Council. Since the Gulf war, the United States has been able to impose its hegemony on the region, control its oil resources, and make massive profits off arms sales. The United States and the West aim to foment divisions, misunderstanding, and needless crises and media campaigns in the region, in the hopes of persuading the Persian Gulf countries to purchase more weapons.

In his recent visit to Kuwait, the French defense minister tried to create the impression of an imaginary threat to Gulf countries from the Islamic Republic of Iran, in the hopes of selling more weapons to these countries. France, it may be recalled, sells fewer weapons to Kuwait than either the United States or the United Kingdom.

An Iranian plan for collective security was met with acceptance and interest by many neutral analysts. Officials attending a seminar held recently in Tehran, under the title Horizons of Peace and Stability in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, said that Iran's proposal would benefit the countries and nations of the region. The same officials said that the United States aims to protect its unjustified interests in the region and employs every tactic to gain control of the oil resources of Persian Gulf countries. The Persian Gulf countries would enjoy complete security if they entered into a regional alliance, for such an alliance could provide them with peace and stability at low cost and without the involvement of foreigners who entertain ambitions in this region.

Editorial Analyzes Relations With Gulf States

NC1607204193 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 10 Jul 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Two Divergent Types of Relations"]

[Text] Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Al Thani, the Qatar Foreign Minister will be arriving in Tehran today for an official visit. This is in response to the recent visit of Dr. Velayati, the Iranian Foreign Minister to the Persian Gulf littoral states.

Since the formation of the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council—(P) GCC—in 1981, Iran's relations with the Persian Gulf littoral states have been characterized by a certain kind of duality.

For the most part Iran's bilateral ties with the (P) GCC countries have been following a path different from its relations with (P) GCC in toto.

During the 8 years of the war of aggression imposed on Iran by Iraq, Iran's relations with the individual Persian Gulf states was more or less similar to the overall relations it had with the (P) GCC. In those years the countries in the southern coast of the Persian Gulf were under the heavy influence of the media on the so-called threat of the expansion of the Islamic Revolution, and consequently they are all sided with Iraq in the war.

With the passage of time, however, and as more and more realities became apparent to the Persian Gulf states, a number of the (P) GCC countries began to establish bilateral ties with Iran which were both in the interests of peace and security in the region and also served the national interests of the relevant countries.

Qatar is among those (P) GCC countries that have established independent, bilateral ties with Iran. Furthermore, bilateral tie between Iran and Qatar has been gradually improving in the course of time. Among the joint projects engaged in, by the two countries might be cited by the project of providing water to Qatar from the Kazerun River in Iran, which is a strategically significant project for both countries. Fortunately bright prospects are envisaged for the improvement of the tie between the two countries in spite of the many hurdles which are being created by some countries in and outside the region.

For the moment the greatest number of difficulties in Iran's relations with the (P) GCC countries arises from the gap between the type of ties Iran has developed with the individual states and its overall relation with (P) GCC. While Iran's bilateral ties with the individual states is improving very fast thanks to the realistic approaches adopted by the concerned countries, Iran's relation with (P) GCC has been moving slothfully in the footsteps of the improving bilateral ties, and has been generally characterized by lack of dynamism.

In the long run this discrepancy in the progression of the two types of relations will create problems for the (P) GCC in the first place.

During the crisis of Kuwait's occupation by Iraq, and subsequently in the course of the crisis between Saudi Arabia and Qatar, the world was witness to the fact that Iran never adopted opportunistic policies.

For Iran the sole criterion has always been the dictates of truth and justice as well as the necessity of ending tension and hostility in the region and opening up horizons of peace and stability for the nations of this part of the world.

Ties With China, Nuclear Arms 'Menace' Seen

NC1607204593 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 7 Jul 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Work on an Alternative"]

[Text] Tehran-Beijing ties have been occasionally strained but never severed. In fact, there is a good and improving working chemistry between the two capitals. A testimony to this good state of ties is the growing volume of economic and cultural exchanges between the two countries.

According to reports, Chinese deputy prime minister, Li Lanqing, currently visiting Iran, conveyed the readiness of his government to the Islamic Republic on the construction of a 300-megawatt nuclear power station. The question of purchasing nuclear power technology was also one of the highlights of Mr. Rafsanjani's trip to China last year.

The report on the construction of the nuclear power plant—whether right or wrong—is likely to refuel talk in the Western media to the effect that Iran is intent on developing nuclear weapons capability or that China is proliferating it.

Both of the above two arguments are wrong. As a member of nuclear club, China has been accused of being a proliferator of weapons of mass destruction and lethal arms in the Third World. But on closer look one would find out that the whole controversy stems from the fact that it want to exercise an independent policy and refuses to follow the American "guidelines" on the sale of arms and technology. The Islamic Republic has, on the other hand, been accused of having embarked on an arms buildup and being a nuclear power aspirant.

As far as Iran is concerned, facts and figures repudiate these accusations. As president Rafsanjani said in his interview with TIME magazine last month, nuclear arms would not enhance the Islamic Republic's security and that, on the contrary, they would expose Iran to increased danger. This statement has been confirmed by IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency]. But all of these, plus others, are unacceptable to Washington which insists that Iran is after nuclear technology. Not even the Bushewhr nuclear power station whose construction began during the previous regime and has cost Iran more than half a dozen billion dollars would constitute a convincing argument to the Americans.

Of all the aspiring nuclear power countries none are as dangerous as North Korea, Iraq and Iran, says the U.S. As far as the first of the trio is concerned, it would be difficult to believe how a resource poor country like North Korea would be able to develop nuclear weapons. However, if not all, at least the majority of the two dozens or so nuclear weapon owning or aspiring Third World countries know that the acquisition of the capability would not contribute to their security—and if they have not realized that they are inept—but if they insist on getting the technology it is because they feel this is the only firm recourse in their constant grope for security.

The world was stunned to learn how close Baghdad had come to secretly acquire an atomic arsenal. Iraq was reportedly running a multi-billion dollars nuclear weapons program when the Persian Gulf War began. It is an open secret that the whole of Iraq's former nuclear arsenal was supplied by the West. However, before the outbreak of hostilities between Iraq and the West, it was no problem that it was developing it or that it contemplated to use it against some Iranian civil target. As long as Baghdad was on the "right" side it could do whatever it wanted. The whole thing became a problem, when Baghdad changed side.

How can the world stop the menace of proliferation? Instead of going to length digging for unenforceable, elaborate solutions, those desirous of stopping nuclear arms, and in a position to do so, should opt for practical solutions.

If some Third World countries try to develop access to nuclear technology, it is because of their sense of insecurity, being open to foreign designs and aggressions, and the imagined sense of security the technology can give them. Much of this insecurity is contrived by arms exporting countries who try to outdo one another, and who, in the meantime, fuel arms race. With the coming of the 21st century to a world made smaller by satellite and other species of technology a new arrangement should be worked out. One in which advanced countries would compete not for the export of lethal technology but one contributing to civilian welfare.

As long as Baghdad was on the "right" side, it had a clearance to do just what it wanted to do, including the use of one or two components of the weapons of mass destruction on Iran. When it changed side, all of a sudden it became the bad guy on the block. This is purely a double standard. One that scares everyone to run for cover and, if they have got the bucks, for the nuke, irrespective of the consequences. [sentence as published] The new lawless international political environment is a terrifying place. Witness what is happening to the Bosnians—and no one, specially those in a position to do something, is giving a damn.

Because of the new world order, the international laws of conduct have become weak. If you happen to be on the wrong side, then you get subjected to all kinds of atrocities and breaches of the laws. The existing international laws are flimsy, unstructured—open to wild interpretations—and situational.

Proliferation of nuclear arms would not stop unless there is a re-evaluation of the existing international laws, standards or mores. Work should go towards making them less subjective and situational. Those in a weaker position for whatever reason (political, economic and/or military) should have some recourse to defend and protect themselves and not feel helpless against pressure and arbitrary measures. This recourse would take away the necessity of possessing a national deterrent such as a nuclear bomb.

Liberation Movement Warns of Popular Discontent

NC1707180593 Paris AFP in English 1718 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July 17 (AFP)—The opposition Iranian Liberation Movement (ILM) Saturday warned of "growing popular discontent" here and called on President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to ensure "respect for civil liberties."

In a statement issued Saturday [17 July], the ILM, which is headed by former prime minister Mehdi Bazargan, said it was "disturbed" by the political situation in Iran.

The ILM said Rafsanjani, who was elected for a second term in June, had to confront "an economic crisis, widespread corruption in the administration, growing popular discontent and unprecedented stagnation in the industrial sector."

"The people are wondering where you are taking them," the ILM said in a call to Rafsanjani to ensure "respect for civil liberties and laws for the people as a whole, and not just for (government) supporters."

The ILM again cast doubt on the fairness of the June elections, citing "the intervention of the Council of Experts," which is charged with constitutional overview, to decide on the eligibility of candidates as well as on the absence of opposition political parties and figures.

The ILM, in common with all other Iranian opposition movements both inside the country and in exile, boycotted the elections.

Rafsanjani, reelected with 63 percent of votes cast, has to present his new cabinet to parliament on August 3.

Opposition Leader Rajavi Cables Saddam on Anniversary

JN1807115393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jul (INA)—Mas'ud Rajavi, leader of the Iranian Resistance National Council, has described the Tehran rulers as the primary source of tension, insecurity, crises, and terrorism in the region and the world at large.

In a cable of congratulations sent to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn on the July revolution anniversary, Rajavi expressed confidence that the Iranian and Iraqi peoples will not enjoy security, prosperity, happiness, and stability as long as these rulers remain at the helm of power in Tehran.

Rajavi accused the Iranian regime of violating the provisions enshrined in UN Security Council Resolution 598, adding that the Khomeyni regime has, since spring 1991, been conspiring against Iraq and working to foment riots and terrorism on Iraqi territory.

The Iranian opposition leader affirmed that the current Iranian regime is losing ground due to its militaristic tendencies and its efforts to foment problems and quarrels in Iran and in the neighboring countries of the region as well.

Rajavi highlighted the economic situation in Iran, which has been deteriorating since 1979, saying: Iran's foreign debts have exceeded $40 billion, whereas commodity prices have doubled more than 20 times over the past few months.

Rajavi described the current Iranian regime as a dictatorship of religious terrorism, arguing that the Iranian rulers found jurisconsult rule [velayat-e faqih] a convenient vehicle for exporting their domestic crises to Iraq to redeem their regime, which is cracking inside Iran.

MKO Denies Report on Dismantling of Networks

NC1907091893 Paris AFP in English 0142 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Nicosia, July 19 (AFP)—The Iranian armed opposition Mojahedin-e Khalq movement based in Iraq issued a denial Sunday [19 July] following an Iranian claim that two Mojahedin-e Khalq "networks" had been dismantled in recent months.

A Mojahedin-e Khalq statement obtained by AFP in Nicosia said the report Sunday in the Iranian government daily KAYHAN was "totally false". It said the Iranian leadership "have never been in a position to damage networks of the Mojahedin and the resistance in Iran."

The Mojahedin-e Khalq statement said that on the contrary, "in operations carried out in Iran in April, May and June, more than 800 Pasdarans (Revolutionary

Guards) were killed and damage worth millions of dollars was inflicted on oil installations."

On May 15, the Mojahedin-e Khalq said they had carried out a "series of operations" in Iran in which seven guerrillas and 200 Pasdarans had been killed.

KAYHAN said Iranian security forces had dismantled two Mojahedin-e Khalq organisations whose members "were trying to corrupt young people and persuade them to go abroad".

Nepal

Further on Political Unrest, Opposition Demands

Government-Opposition Talks Collapse

BK1607161493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1416 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Kathmandu, July 16 (AFP)—Talks between leaders of the ruling Nepali Congress (NC) party and communist parties here to defuse the current wave of political agitation have failed, a communist party source said Friday [16 July].

The source said the more than three hour long talks between top NC leaders including Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala and top communists broke down Thursday when the communists refused to talk further unless Koirala resigned.

The breakdown led political observers to speculate on the possibility of midterm polls, and fears that if they were held they could benefit the rightist former Panchayat party-the National Democratic Party (NDP).

Others attending the failed talks were NC party president Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, NC supreme leader Ganesh Man Singh, Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML) leader Man Mohan Adhikari, its General Secretary Madhan Nepal and the convenor of the United Leftists Action Committee, Bam Dev Nepal.

The extraordinary summit, held at the initiative of the Nepal Journalists Association (NJA), was the first between the NC and NCP-UML since the restoration of democracy in Nepal in 1990, and the first since the communists called general strikes June 25 and July 4 which left at least 25 dead by unofficial count.

The sources said that after listening to both sides Ganesh Man Singh had assured the communists that their demands for a judicial enquiry into the deaths of two of their leaders had "already begun."

He also asked that the NCP-ULM call off a 72-hour transport strike planned for Monday, while the NCP-ULM MP's reiterated Koirala's resignation was one of their 12 demands, a position NC delegates said made further talk useless.

An NC party source said mediators at the meeting—who included NC MPs Tarini Dutta Chataut, Arjun Narsingh K.C. and Tara Nath Rana Bhatt and NCP-UML MPs Bharat Mohan Adhikari, Devi Prasad Ojha and Pradip Nepal—were also left without room to find agreement.

The country's seven left factions have threatened to follow Monday's nationwide transport strike with a 72-hour general strike beginning August 9.

Congress Rally Attacked

BK1607162093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1505 GMT 16 Jul 93

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Kathmandu, July 16 (AFP)—Unidentified attackers carrying black flags hurled stones Friday at a demonstration of more than 40,000 ruling Nepali Congress (NC) activists, injuring at least 25 people including an MP.

The attack came after party sources said top level talks Thursday [15 July] between the the NC and communist party leaders over the political unrest had broken down over the left's demands that Prime Minister Girija Koirala step down.

The failure of the more than three hour extraordinary meeting, at which Koirala was one of the participants, raised speculation among political observers here that the government might have to call mid-term polls.

Police said 12 people had been arrested after the attack on the NC rally, but that others got away, while witnesses said NC parliamentarian Krishna Singh Pariyar was among those hurt.

The NC rally participants had poured into the capital from outlying districts in response to a call for a "democracy protection" procession. They were shouting slogans against vandalism when the attackers hit.

The procession, called by NC Kathmandu District Committee Chairman Prakash Man Singh, started with a parade around the city and ended with a mass public meeting at an open air theatre.

Witnesses said that at the theatre the NC leaders called on the audience to defend Nepal's democratic system and criticized the current political instability, triggered last month by the opposition communist response to the deaths of two of their leaders.

Some 25 people were killed by unofficial count in violence and police shootings during general protest strikes called by the left June 25 and July 4 during which millions of dollars of damage was caused to public property.

The unrest, the NC leaders said said, had led to economic problems.

They also vowed that the opposition's dream of changing the government by force and agitation would never be fulfilled, and appealed to the leftist opposition leaders to come forward to solve problems through dialogue.

Witnesses said that when the NC demonstrators arrived at the meeting, a group carrying black flags emerged and started throwing stones, also hitting riot police.

An NC party official said a group from the Congress-allied Nepal Students Union came under attack by leftist students who started throwing stones at them from their Union central office.

The party source said at least nine students were among the injured.

Riot police guarded public office premises, including the American Library, which was the target of attacks during the leftist June 25 dawn-to-dusk strike.

Other key establishments, including the General Post Office, the Central Telephone Exchange, jails and bridges were guarded by army security personnel, witnesses added.

Leftist groups meanwhile organized a cartoon show at a park near the NC meeting place, and effigies of Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala stained with blood-red paint appeared in some places. Communist activists were planning to burn them later in the evening, a party official said.

The communist factions have been demanding the prime minister's resignation over the May 16 jeep accident which killed two senior communists, Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML) General Secretary Madan Kumar Bhandari, a strong critic of the government, and Central Committee member Jeev Raj Ashrit.

The government blamed the driver for the accident, attributing it to negligence, but communist parties in a separate finding said the two leaders were murdered and the driver was deeply involved in the alleged murder plot.

The communists have vowed to continue their agitation with a 72-hour nationwide transport strike starting Monday and a second general strike August 9 until Koirala steps down.

Participants in Thursday's meeting also included NC president Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, NC supremo Ganesh Man Singh, Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML) leader Man Mohan Adhikari, its General Secretary Madhan Nepal and the convenor of the United Leftists Action Committee, Bam Dev Nepal.

NC delegates said that if the resignation of Koirala was the prime demand of the leftists, then there was no point in holding the meeting, an NC party source said explaining the breakdown.

Some political observers here, discussing the possibility of forced midterm polls, speculated that the rightist, former Panchayat party, now under the name of the National Democratic Party (NDP) could cash in on the political confusion to take more votes than the Congress or the left.

In 1990 the communists and the Nepali Congress united to throw out the partyless Panchayats and introduce a multi-party system.

Demand for Premier's Resignation Rejected

BK1707093693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] In Nepal, the demand for Prime Minister Koirala's resignation has been turned down by the ruling Nepali Congress [NC]. The party president, Mr. K.P. Bhattarai, told AIR [All India Radio] Kathmandu correspondent that the main opposition Communist Party of Nepal [CPN]-UML [United Marxist Leninist] leaders have been told during the high-level talks that their demand under pressure of street violence is against parliamentary norms and cannot be agreed to. The supreme leader of the NC, Mr. Ganesh Man Singh, who also took part in the talks, said the prime minister cannot be removed at the asking of other parties so long as he enjoys the confidence of his parliamentary party. Our correspondent says the ruling party has agreed to six of the eight demands of the opposition including a fresh probe into the death of two top communist leaders and reconsideration of cases of retrenched employees. The CPN-UML general secretary, Mr. Madhav Nepal, however said they will not withdraw the countrywide chakka jam [transport strike] program for Monday [19 July] and Tuesday as requested by the ruling party unless a concrete assurance is given that the prime minister will be removed.

Over 500 Arrested Ahead of Strike

BK1807085293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0748 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Kathmandu, July 18 (AFP)—Police arrested more than 500 people including communist activists in an overnight sweep here ahead of a nationwide leftist strike called for Monday [19 July], police sources said Sunday.

Seven factions of the leftist opposition led by the Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML) called the two-day 'Chakka Jam' (transport stoppage) to try to force the resignation of Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala.

The groups have been agitating nationwide since June 25 demanding the formation of a high level judicial investigation commission under the chairmanship of a functioning supreme court justice to probe the deaths of two senior NCP-UML leaders in jeep accident on May 16.

Party and government sources meanwhile said 11th-hour negotiations were still on Sunday at a parliamentarian level to see whether the strike could be averted.

A judicial commission formed earlier by the government had blamed the accident on the jeep driver's negligence, but a separate party report called the accident cold blooded murder and said the driver was involved.

Leftists say at least 25 people have been shot dead by riot police during the last two weeks' of agitation, but the government has confirmed only 10 deaths in the worst political violence in Nepal for three years.

Following the deaths and the arrest of hundreds of leftist activists, the communist parties added six demands including reinstatement of more than 4,500 pro-leftist civil servants and teachers, and the release of all communist activists detained during the agitation.

Their main demand is resignation of Koirala.

To press Koirala's Nepali Congress (NC) government to meet the demands, the left has also called for a three-day general strike between August 9-11 to follow the two-day nationwide "Chakka Jam" starting Monday.

An extraordinary summit between ruling Congress leaders and the NCP-UML failed last Friday, but negotiations at MP level are still on, a NC party source told AFP.

During Saturday's negotiation, the NC agreed to fulfil all the communists' demands except the removal of Koirala.

A NC parliamentary delegation last weekend had suggested to the prime minister's office that ruling party leaders should work out a way in which Koirala could resign through constitutional means.

The Nepali Congress Central Working Committee (NCCWC) is holding a meeting on July 22 at which the question of Koiralas resignation is expected to be finalized, the sources said.

Before the NCCWC meeting, the NC party had appealed to the NCP-UML and its allies to call off the 'Chakka Jam', the NC source added.

NCP-ULM party sources said its supporters were holding talks Sunday to consider whether to call off the strike on the basis of assurances given by the ruling party leaders.

Police Fire on Strikers

BK1907122493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1217 GMT 19 Jul 93

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Kathmandu, July 19 (AFP)—At least two persons were killed and more than 32 others injured in police firing while 3,000 were arrested Monday [19 July] during a nationwide transport strike called by communists, party sources said. A party source said two people were shot dead by police, one in Damak, 390 kilometres (243 miles) southeast of Kathmandu and the other in Rupandehi, 280 kilometres (175 miles) southwest of here.

Officials however confirmed only one death and five injuries in the firing at the two points where the party said 32 received bullet wounds.

The country's seven communist parties including Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML), and others had jointly called for the two-day transport strike amid demands over the past month for the resignation of Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala.

Police said they had arrested more than 500 communist party activists and other suspicious characters on Sunday night and Monday morning apparently to avoid trouble during the two-day strike starting Monday. However a communist action committee convenor and parliamentarian, Pradeep Nepal, told AFP: "Over 3,000 leftist activists including sixteen parliamentarians have been arrested within the last 24 hours to foil our strike call."

The party source said Devendra Paudyel, secretary general of the left-wing All Nepal Free Nationalist Students Union, was among those arrested. Private and foreign diplomatic vehicles were kept off the streets fearing stoning attacks, witnesses said.

Police said early Monday that some unidentified attackers stoned and tried to set alight a milk tanker owned by the Dairy Corporation at Pulchok in Patan district while in Kathmandu four vehicles—a Home Ministry car, an army jeep and two corporation vehicles—were damaged.

Simultaneously some 3,000 communist activists staged an anti- government demonstration in industrial township of Hetaunda, 190 kilometres (119 miles) south of Kathmandu, stoning and smashing the windshields of four police vehicles.

Police said they had to resort to firing at Damak when unruly communist activists tried to erect barricades along the highway there to stop traffic. When police on tractors tried to disperse them, the mob threw stones and logs at them forcing them to open fire in self defence.

Long distance transport for both goods and people was disrupted by demonstrations in Chitaun district to the southwest, the main route for all vehicles entering and leaving Kathmandu, police said.

The Deputy Mayor of Hetaunda town, Haribol Mahat, United Peoples Front (UPF) district Secretary Ram Krishna Shrestha and several other leftist activists were arrested there.

At Nepalgunj, 390 kilometres (243 miles) southwest of here, communist workers lay on the highway to stop vehicles, police said.

Similar reports from Biratnagar and Janakpur, two industrial towns in eastern Nepal, said the strike had disrupted daily life there.

In the Kathmandu valley, all schools, colleges and factories were affected by the strike, witnesses said.

The communists have been demanding for a new judical commission under the chairmanship of a functioning supreme court judge to probe the May 16 jeep accident in which two of their senior leaders were killed.

An earlier investigation commission formed by the government attributed the accident to the driver's negligence but a separate investigation carried out by the communists said the two were murdered and the driver deeply involved in the conspiracy.

Communist activists held anti-government demonstrations in different parts of Kathmandu raising anti-Koirala slogans and denouncing police firing on Monday, witnesses said.

Pakistan

President, Prime Minister Agree To Step Down

BK1807121593 Karachi DAWN in English 18 Jul 93 pp 1, 18

[Text] Islamabad, July 17—President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif agreed to step down from their offices after a series of meetings with top generals of Pakistan Army on Saturday [17 July], paving the way for fresh general election in the country within three months.

Two sessions of the Big Three, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Army Chief General Abdul Waheed, were held in which all details of the smooth changeover from the present set-up to a neutral caretaker set-up in the Centre and the provinces were discussed threadbare.

Another round of the Big Three is scheduled for Sunday morning in which the last details about the caretaker set-ups in the Centre and the provinces would be decided. The Prime Minister would follow the meeting with a joint meeting of his party's MNAs [members of National Assembly] and Senators and then address the nation.

Official sources said the Prime Minister had decided to address the nation on Sunday at 8 p.m. in which he would announce the decisions of the meetings and declare that he was stepping down in the larger national interest.

Mr Nawaz Sharif looked defiant when he emerged at 11.05 p.m. and repeated his rhetoric that the present crisis was "artificial" and that he would resolve it within constitutional limits.

"There is no pressure on me to quit and the Army is just helping us to resolve the crisis," Mr Nawaz Sharif told waiting newsmen outside the President's House.

The first news of President Ghulam Ishaq Khan having agreed to step down was broken by Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan who received the information while he was presiding a session of the All Parties Conference [APC]. At the same time the second session of the troika was also continuing in the Presidency.

"The President has resigned and the Prime Minister has advised the President to dissolve the Assembly," Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan shocked other APC leaders and newsmen by his disclosure.

But later it emerged that the information of Nasrullah Khan was premature as discussions on the modalities of the changeover were still going on and nothing had actually taken place.

While the troika was meeting in the Presidency, all the four governors of the provinces, Altaf Hussain of Punjab, Amir Gulistan Janjua of NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province], Mahmoud Haroon of Sindh, and Gul Mohammad Jogezai of Balochistan were having dinner together at the Sindh House discussing their future as they would be the first casualties of the neutral set-up.

The provincial chief ministers, Manzoor Wattoo and Mir Afzal Khan had joined the APC meeting to air their grievances as they were also to fall vicitim to the scheme that had been agreed to by the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] Co-Chairman, Benazir Bhutto, without consulting the APC leaders.

Ms Benazir Bhutto, who had been attacked by APC leaders Maulana Fazlur Rehman for "selling out the APC cause" by calling off the long march, was apparently inclined for a totally neutral caretaker set-up as that would help her party in the fresh polls, since the present political set-ups, if retained, would not be advantageous for her party.

The APC wanted to become a party to the talks being held between the Big Three of the troika while a similar request had been conveyed to the Army Chief by two chief ministers: Mir Afzal Khan and Manzoor Wattoo, who had called on him on Friday.

The Big Three's talks, spread over almost four hours on Saturday, mainly tried to resolve the question: who should quit first, the President or the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister wanted that Mr Ishaq Khan should resign, Mr Wasim Sajjad should take over as Acting President and then the Prime Minister would submit his advice to dissolve the Assembly.

The President insisted that he should get the advice, then he would dissolve the National Assembly, induct a caretaker prime minister and submit his resignation.

The Army Chief probably brought them both to agree that the President should submit his resignation to him (General Waheed) who would hold it until the President received the Prime Minister's advice, acted on it and inducted a new caretaker set-up.

Later it emerged that a real document was being prepared which envisaged the points of view with the Prime Minister still insisting that he would submit his advice after he had addressed the nation on radio and TV.

Many in the federal capital doubted whether in the present polarised atmosphere, the Prime Minister would be able to hang on until 8 p.m. on Sunday to give his parting address in which he is likely to attack the President and present his case before the nation, trying to gain their sympathies and bowing out as a hero and a martyr.

As the news of the resignation of the President and stepping down of the Prime Minister spread in political circles, a spate of names also started circulating, including those of new ones that could provide a total suprise if they are included in the caretaker set-up.

Prominent among these for the caretaker prime minister were of Mr Moin Qureshi, an Executive Vice President of the World Bank, Justice Qadir Sheikh of Sindh, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, Justice Yaqub Ali, Justice Javed Iqbal, Malik Meraj Khalid and a former CSP [expansion unknown] Officer Mr Maqbool Elahi.

For the four governors, the names which have been reportedly agreed upon are General (retd) Iqbal Khan (Punjab); General (retd) Khurshid (NWFP); Hakim Saeed (Sindh); and Brig (retd) Raheem Durrani (Balochistan). The other hot contestants are General (retd) Jahandad Khan, General (retd) Alam Jan Mahsud, General K.K. Afridi and General (retd) Imanullah.

Sources said former Education Secretary, Punjab, Sheikh Manzoor Elahi has been tipped as chief minister for Punjab and Naseer Mengal, Pakistan's Ambassador to Qatar as Chief Minister for Balochistan while Madad Ali Shah and Mufti Idrees are likely to be chief ministers of Sindh and NWFP respectively.

Mr Wasim Sajjad, Chairman of the Senate, would naturally be taking over as the Acting President if President Ghulam Ishaq Khan were to quit.

"We would lose a lot, including the provincial government," a close relative of President Ghulam Ishaq Khan said. "But we are ready to make this sacrifice for democracy and the country."

National Assembly Dissolved

BK1807204893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in Urdu 2030 GMT 18 Jul 93

["Special News Bulletin"]

[Excerpts] Under a package deal to resolve the political problems facing the nation, the National Assembly has been dissolved in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Constitution. The general elections for the National Assembly will be held on 6 October and for the provincial assemblies on 9 October this year.

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has resigned and gone on a four-month leave. According to the Constitution, Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad has assumed the office of the acting president, and prominent economist Moin Qureshi has taken the oath as acting prime minister.

At the presidential house in Islamabad a short while ago, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, on the advice of Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, announced the dissolution of the National Assembly and the holding of general elections in October.

[Begin Khan recording, in English] Whereas, I, Ghulam Ishaq Khan, president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, has been advised by Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, the prime minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, under Clause 1 of Article 58 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, to dissolve the National Assembly. Now, therefore, I, Ghulam Ishaq Khan, president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, in exercise of the powers conferred on me by Clause 1 of Article 58 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, dissolve the National Assembly with immediate effect, and the prime minister and the cabinet cease to hold office forthwith.

The second order pertains to the fixation of the date of elections:

Whereas the president, under advice of the prime minister, has, in exercise of power conferred on him by Article 58-1 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, dissolved the National Assembly on 18 July 1993, and 48-5A of the Constitution requires the day the president dissolve the National Assembly he shall in his discretion appoint a date for the holding of the general election to the assembly. Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 38-5A of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the president is pleased hereby to appoint 6 October 1993 and 9 October 1993 as the dates for the holding of general election to the National Assembly and the provincial assemblies, respectively. [end recording]

Soon after this, acting Prime Minister Moin Qureshi took the oath. [passage omitted]

Later, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan announced his resignation from his office:

[Begin Ishaq Khan recording in English] In order to uphold the national interest and in the firm belief that it shall help resolve the current political crisis, I have decided to voluntarily resign my office in terms of Article 44-3 of the Constitution. In compliance with Article 49-1 therefore, Mr. Wasim Sajjad, chairman,

Senate, shall act as the president until a president is elected in accordance with Clause 3 of Article 41. In pursuance of the second proviso to Section 12 of the President's Salary, Allowances and Privileges Act 1975, I shall avail myself of four months' leave due to me from the date of laying down my office, which shall commence with effect from 19 July 1993. [end recording]

The appointments made for the caretaker governments in the four provinces are as follows: Retired Lieutenant General Mohammad Iqbal will be the governor and Sheikh Manzoor Elahi the acting chief minister of Punjab. Hakim Mohammad Saeed has been appointed as governor and retired Justice Ali Madad Shah as the acting chief minister of Sindh Province. In the North-West Frontier Province, retired Major General Khurshid Ali Khan will be the governor and Mufti Mohammad Abbas the acting chief minister. In Balochistan Province, retired Brigadier Raheem Durrani has been appointed as governor and Naseerullah Mengal acting chief minister.

All these decisions were made unanimously as a result of the detailed, prolonged, and high-level negotiations that have been going on for the past few days. All the persons included in the caretaker governments at the federal and the provincial levels will not be eligible to contest the general elections. Their foremost duty will be to ensure the holding of free and fair elections in a peaceful atmosphere.

Khan Announces Resignation

BK1907090693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 2100 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Speech by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan on 18 July; place not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the most beneficient and merciful. My dear countrymen, peace be upon you. As you are aware, I, on the advice of the prime minister, have issued a presidential order dissolving the National Assembly under Article 58-1 of the Constitution which is totally in keeping with the requirements of the Constitution. In this way, the people are being provided with an opportunity once again to freely exercise their right of franchise and elect a new leadership to run the democratic system. The general elections for the National Assembly will be held on 6 October and for the provincial assemblies, God willing, on 9 October this year.

Caretaker governments comprising nonpolitical, noncontroversial, and nonpartisan people are being set up at the center and provinces in order to make the election process transparent, impartial, fair, and acceptable to all free from doubts and misgivings. Moin Qureshi has been appointed as the prime minister and took the oath of office a shortwhile ago.

Moin Quereshi is an eminent expert of economics in Pakistan. He has been playing a significant role at the national and international level and has been viewed with dignity and honor everywhere.

In Punjab, Retired Lieutenant General Mohammad Iqbal has been appointed as the governor and Sheikh Manzoor as the chief minister. In Sindh, Hakim Mohammad Saeed will be the governor and Retired Justice Ali Madad Shah the chief minister. In Northwest Frontier Province, Retired Major General Khurshid Ali Khan will be the governor and Mufti Mohammad Abbas the chief minister. Retired Brigadier Rahim Durrani has been appointed as the governor and Naseerullah Mengal the chief minister of Balochistan. All the persons included in the caretaker governments at the federal and provincial levels will not be eligible to run in the upcoming elections. In addition to their normal duties, their foremost responsibility will be to ensure the holding of free and fair elections in a peaceful atmosphere. I am confident that while fulfilling their national responsibilities, they will discharge their basic duties in a cordial manner.

So far as I am concerned, I have decided to resign the post of the president. I am going on a four month leave effective today under Section 12 of the President's Salary, Allowance and Previleges Act 1975, after voluntarily resigning under Article 44-3 of the Constitution. According to the Constitution, Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad will fulfill his responsibilities as acting president until a new president is elected after the general elections.

My dear countrymen, all these decisions made in a consensual manner are the result of the detailed and prolonged high-level consultations that have been going on for the past several days. Aside from others, the Pakistani Army leadership has played a very positive and constructive role in these negotiations. In our political history, during crises, the role of the Army has been of a specific nature. The country will be ever grateful to the Army for discharging its duties to safeguard democracy by stepping aside from its usual path this time.

You are fully aware of the political crisis that has been going on in the country for the past few months as a result of which the country has been bogged down in nerve-racking uncertainty and restlessness. I made every effort at my level to resolve that crisis within the purview of the Constitution and the law. But those efforts did not prove effective in an atmosphere void of political reconciliation and mutual trust. All this time, I was of the view that the best and the only way to resolve the crisis was to refer the matter to the people, who are the real heirs of the high seat of power.

The dissolution of the National Assembly on 18 April was in fact reflective of the desire and effort to resolve the political crisis through elections in a political way. However, the Supreme Court, which is entrusted with the task of interpretation and explanation, did not endorse my view. And I, who equates the dignity of law with faith, bowed my head before the verdict of the court as ever.

It is a different matter that all the parties today consider the same solution to the crisis, which was proposed by me, as effective and practical. I will not give any explanation or comment on what happened in the meantime. You have witnessed how the crisis was intensifying and the situation deteriorating day by day, and how apprehensions about the future of the democratic system started springing up in people's minds.

History will rightly determine responsibility for the crisis. In today's atmosphere of political bigotry, it does not appear that any desirable opinion will be formed. Nevertheless, I know that an impression was created in people's minds that I was the one to blame, and all the mistakes were blamed on me. While this happened, the record of my total allegiance to the Constitution and law, which is manifest in my entire life, was completely forgotten. My selfless services spanning half a century were forgotten. I discharged my service without any personal benefit. I have pursued tireless efforts since August 1988 for the establishment, protection, and stability of democracy, and for the independence, sovereignty, stability, and progress of the dear motherland, despite the tough test of time and pressure.

But I have no complaints against anybody. I know that it is not anything unusual to make sacrifices to attain a goal. But I have the satisfaction that although I may have many shortcomings, I have not done anything for which I should repent. I entered the presidential house as a result of an accident and stayed there as a result of the elections. My entry there was in the spirit of service to the nation. My stay there passed with my best capabilities while protecting the national interests. And today I am leaving that place again in the interests of the nation and the country. During my attempts to resolve the crisis I felt that my office was considered to be a stumbling block by some people. At once I voluntarily and sincerely made an offer to depart from the scene in the presence of various learned and honorable scholars, provided it would pave the way for elections.

I never accepted anyone's pressure throughout my life. Everyone who is aware of my selfless and principled position in both internal and external affairs will testify to my character. The present decision is also my own decision. I have made this decision only in the interests of the country and the nation and for the sake of the stability of the democratic system. My conscience is satisfied, no matter what others say. I never thought of any conspiracies, not have my hands ever been tainted with (?confrontation). I never thought it fit to even respond to the worst allegations leveled against me. Had I wished, however, I would have revealed the deeds of several veiled persons. I am confident that when the dust of allegations settles and when the cloud of political prejudices clears, history will decide in my favor. The present time can be disfigured, but when it becomes the past and goes down in the annals of history, realities come to the foreground. And even if it does not happen so, it does not matter. And God—who knows the intentions of people and their inner mind—is also witness to my loyalty and sincerity of purpose in every breath. And I do not need the testimony of anybody other than this.

I pray to God to (?continue) his blessings on Pakistan and protect it from every threat and crisis, and enable its people and leaders to protect and serve it. God, through his Prophet, has taught every one of us that greatness lies in the service of religion and country. Every other way to achieve greatness will prove dangerous.

May God be the supporter and helper of Pakistan! Long live Pakistan!

Acting President Comments

BK1907033093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Acting President Wasim Sajjad has said it is encouraging that the most crucial crisis in the history of the country has been resolved within the purview of the Constitution. He said this at the end of the speeches of several members in the Senate last night, congratulating him for decorating the highest office of the country. Wasim Sajjad said it was a prolonged and intricate crisis of the country. He said the need of the hour is that the nation should pay attention to the causes of the crisis and find a solution in the light of the democratic experience in the country during the last eight years. He asked Senate members to play their role to overcome any shortcoming, wherever it is found.

Earlier, in their speeches, the senators expressed the hope that Wasim Sajjad would discharge his new responsibilities in the impartial manner he used while Senate chairman. They asked the acting president to ensure free, fair, and impartial elections in order to restore the sanctity of votes.

Acting President Profiled

BK1907122193 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 19 Jul 93 p 1

[Article by Shafqut Munir: "A Man With Bright Career"]

[Text] Islamabad—Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad, who has taken over as acting President under Constitutional provisions following resignation of President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, is a professional lawyer and has a bright academic and professional career. His father Justice Sajjad Ahmad Jan was among one of the most respected judges of Pakistan's history. His father had served as Chief Election Commissioner of Pakistan.

Wasim Sajjad was elected member of the Senate in 1985 on a seat reserved for professionals. He served as Minister for Justice and Parliamentary Affairs from September 1986 to December 1988. He replaced Ghulam Ishaq Khan as Senate Chairman on 24, 12 1988 and now he replaced the same m[illegible] President of Pakistan on late night Sunday.

Wasim Sajjad was born on 30th March, 1941 in Jallundher, East Punjab and now belongs to Lahore. He had a long association with Punjab University as he had been graduated in 1961 with honours in English and later did his master degree in Political Science. He obtained his degree in Law from the same university. He had been awarded several Gold Medals during his academic carear. Later in 1964 he was selected Rhodes Scholar from Pakistan for studies at Oxford University. He obtained various distinctions at the Oxford University during his stay while studying Law. Wasim Sajjad did Barrister-at-Law from the Inner Temple London. He was elected as President Oxford University Islamic Society and Pakistan Society.

Wasim Sajjad has been in Constitutional Law at University Law College Lahore. He appeared in a large number of cases of Constitutional and legal importance before the High Court and Supreme Court.

As Senate Chairman, his performance remained like a true custodian of every member in the upper house. He proved a man of cool tempers while conducting the proceedings of the Senate even in a charged atmosphere. As head of Pakistan's parliamentary delegation he visited various countries including Bulgaria, United States, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, China, Sandi Arabia, Japan and many other countries. His recent visits to the United States were of much importance as he defended the case of Pakistan when there were sour relations between the two countries. He time and agains on various occasions at International forums and while meeting the foreign dignitories projected the just cause of Kashmiris. Wasim Sajjad upheld the human rights. On his special interest, the Senate of Pakistan for the first time in its history established a house committee for human rights.

Acting Premier Takes Oath

BK1907024593 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] At a function in Islamabad early this morning, Moinuddin Ahmad Qureshi took the oath as acting prime minister. Outgoing President Ghulam Ishaq Khan administered the oath. In a brief chat with newsmen later, the acting prime minister said he will make full efforts to serve the nation.

The caretaker prime minister called on the acting president Wasim Sajjad. Later, the chiefs of the Armed Forces met the acting prime minister and congratulated him.

Bhutto Seen as 'Clear Winner'

BK1907085293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0822 GMT 19 Jul 93

[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Text] Islamabad, July 19 (AFP)—Pakistan's main opposition leader Benazir Bhutto emerged clear winner in an army-sponsored overnight shake-up that led to the exit of both the president and his prime ministerial rival, diplomats and analysts said Monday [19 July].

Almost all diplomats gave high marks to the role played by army chief Abdul Waheed in ending the months' old crisis and averting a collapse of the country's democratic system.

"The solution has also helped in regional stability as there is always a risk of India taking advantage of turmoil in Pakistan," one diplomat observed. Analysts pointed out that this time the army had come to the rescue of democracy in Pakistan, whose history is replete with repeated military interventions.

Both President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, 78, and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, 45, stepped down "in the larger interest of the nation" and the National Assembly was dissolved for the second time in three months late Sunday.

Ishaq Khan handed over the all powerful portfolio of president to the Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad, 52, who became acting head of state under the country's constitution.

Sharif was replaced by renowed economist and former World Bank executive Moin Qureshi, 63, who became caretaker prime minister. Similar changes were effected in the country's four provinces where former army officers or judges have taken over as governors and chief ministers.

The caretaker administrations will ensure impartial elections to be supervised by the army. Elections to the National Assembly would be held on October 6 and those to the provincial assemblies on October 9, an official notification issued after the departure of the mutually hostile leaders said early Monday.

"I have been maligned too much, but history will vindicate me," said the seasoned bureaucrat Ishaq Khan in his nationwide parting speech before dawn Monday, drawing the curtain on his 52-year long involvement in the country's administration and politics.

Sharif in his own broadcast, full of torrents of rhetoric, said, "The real issue was based on constitutional contradictions and personal ambitions."

His address, seen as the opening shot in his campaign for re-election, repeatedly referred to the "conspiracies and intrigues" hatched by political opportunists and the enemies of the country's economy and the people's prosperity to undermine the democratic system.

"I have accepted their challenge. The war with the opposition has started and it will continue on all fronts," he said, predicting that the masses would return him "this time with even greater majority."

"It was lack of faith and political expediencies" that plunged the country into the crisis, Ishaq Khan said. "God knows my sincerity and one does not need anything else."

Diplomats, however, believed the president was the clear loser in the triangular fight, sparked when Ishaq Khan sacked Sharif in April only to see the Supreme Court reinstate him, while former prime minister Bhutto emerged a clear winner, getting rid of both her rivals. Bhutto had harboured resentment against Ishaq Khan who had also sacked her after 20-months rule in August 1990, but she sided with the president in his political battle with the premier, demanding new elections on the ground that Sharif's assembly was a "bogus house."

In a statement she hailed the people on the "glorious outcome" of their struggle and said the nation would have a chance to elect a government of their choice.

Acting president Wasim Sajjad expressed satisfaction that the "gravest crisis" was resolved within the parameters of the constitution, and he advised politicians to exercise tolerance and forbearance.

"The armed forces played a responsible role and despite a threat, martial law has been averted," he remarked.

Bhutto's Cancellation of March Opens 'Cracks' in Opposition

BK1707091293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0843 GMT 17 Jul 93

[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Text] Islamabad, July 17 (AFP)—Cracks have started appearing in the ranks of Pakistan's opposition since its leader Benazir Bhutto called off a protest march on Islamabad Friday [16 July] and army-sponsored talks on an election plan stalemated.

The so called political solution, envisaging surrender of power by two main adversaries, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, were to resume Saturday after an overnight session bogged down on the question of who should quit first, informed sources said.

Sharif refused to dissolve the National Assembly until Ishaq Khan stepped down and vowed not to succumb to "undemocratic pressures" to curtail his five year mandate until 1995.

The reported political solution was hammered out by the army on the eve of the "long march" planned by opposition factions united under the banner of the All Parties Conference (APC) Thursday.

The APC had claimed that hundreds of thousands would lay an indefinite siege to the capital Islamabad from Friday until Sharif announced mid-term polls.

However, the chief of the country's powerful army, General Abdul Waheed, at the last minute forced a compromise to avert a showdown. His troops had earlier entered in the city to protect key government buildings against any onslaught by opposition marchers.

Bhutto gave in to Waheed's request to call off the march amid speculation that the opposition move might compell the army to impose the martial law.

But her unilateral decision to scrub the march "when all arrangements had been finalised" has angered her APC colleagues who feel they were betrayed, several sources in the opposition [word indistinct].

Fazlur Rahman, chief of the the fundamentalist party, Jamiat-i- Ulema-i-Islam (JUI), Friday accused Bhutto of "sabotaging" the opposition struggle against Sharif's 32-month old government.

APC convener Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan also criticised Bhutto, saying she had not take her allies into confidence. There was also talk that the opposition should form a new alliance excluding Bhutto's Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) to continue the struggle.

However, leader of the breakaway Pakistan Muslim League faction Hamid Nasir Chattha said there was no need for another political alliance.

Endorsing Bhutto's decision to postpone the long march, he said if there was a need it could be mobilised once again.

Bhutto failed to attend an APC meeting here late Friday, where her deputy Farooq Leghari defended her case saying that she took the decision according to the requirements of the occasion. Sources in her party said she had been given to understand that APC demand for elections would be accepted.

The so-called formula for a political slution—which was not officially revealed and quoted only by opposition sources—had the country's power trioka, comprising president, prime minister and the army chief, reaching an understanding that Sharif would dissolve the assembly.

It also involved the president leaving on four months vacation and senate chairman Wasim Sajjad taking over as acting president while a neutral government assumed power for the interim period during which elections would be held under the army.

Similarly provincial governments would also be headed by non-controversial judicial or political personalities.

A formal announcement was expected Saturday but sources said the trioka talks overnight were inconclusive as Sharif refused to pack up ahead of the vacation of the presidency by Ishaq Khan.

In a defiant mood Sharif told reporters Friday that the fate of National Assembly was linked with the future of the country and "I will not let anyvbody cause harm to the country or the democracy."

The trioka is meeting again on Saturday but sources said Ishaq Khan was also under pressure from his political allies not to accept the demand for his resignation.

APC Criticizes Bhutto

BK1707120393 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 17 Jul 93 p 1

[By Javed Jalett]

[Text] Islamabad—The All Parties Conference [APC] Friday [16 July] criticised Benazir Bhutto for announcing the postponement of long march without taking her allied parties into confidence.

The three-hour meeting of the grand opposition alliance had a detailed view of the political scenario of the country and APC's stand on postponement of the march.

The insiders have revealed that of the APC members argued that the proposed formula of the [words indistinct] accepted as the leader of the opposition Benazir Bhutto had not taken them into confidence while accepting it.

The majority of the opposition leaders have accused PPP [Pakistan People's Party] leadership of betraying the alliance. Malik Hakimeen Khan who was representing PPP in the meeting, on feeling that he can not defend his party against such criticism called his senior Farooq Leghari for rescue.

Farooq Leghari defended his party's stand and said that the action taken by the leader of the opposition was in complete line with the requirements of the occasion. He further said that Benazir Bhutto had already briefed Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan and Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi about the reasons behind the postponement of long march. He said that he can not add a word on his own to the plea of Benazir Bhutto while she had taken before her APC allies in a meeting late on Thursday night after the announcement of postponement of the long march.

Howevers the opposition leaders remained edgy towards PPP and Benazir Bhutto and they never spared a moment to criticise the PPP.

Abdul Hafeez Pirzada said that Benazir should have consulted APC before taking such a crucial decision.

[Words indistinct] Benazir Bhutto's decision had proved a big set back to the opposition alliance. He alleged that Benazir Bhutto had bypassed APC.

The All Parties Conference also discussed Nawaz Sharif's statement, ignoring the proposed formula of transfer of power reportedly agreed upon in the meeting of troika. The APC meeting said that there was a need to give the call for long march once again to teach a lesson to Nawaz Sharif.

Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, Convener of APC said at a press briefing that APC had postponed the march in the best interest of the country on request of the COAS [chief of army staff]. He said that the opposition was expecting some positive developments after the postponement of long march but the statement of Nawaz Sharif had compelled them to rethink on the [words indistinct] continuing their agitation. He demanded President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and authorities at the helm of affairs to take action against Nawaz Sharif.

Nawabzada said that the president should use his constitutional power to dissolve the assembly and install an interim government.

Nawabzada Nasrudlah Khan reiterated that the opposition's struggle [words indistinct] elections for national and provincial assemblies simultaneously. The APC will meet again at the residence of [name indistinct] Chaudhry on Saturday evening.

THE NEWS has learnt that Mir Afzal Khan, and Manzoor Wattoo, chief ministers of the NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] and Punjab respectively, will call on the Chief of Army Staff on Saturday. The decision in this regard was taken in the meeting of APC.

Manzoor Wattoo later in a press talk said that Nawaz Sharif should accept the verdict of majority and should dissolve the assembly.

He further said that some people were still aspiring to capture Punjab. He added that such people were living in fools' paradise.

Explosions, Unrest Reported in Sindh Cities

Bomb Blast, Grenade Attacks Kill One

BK1807140093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1351 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Karachi, July 18 (AFP)—A series of bomb blasts and grenade attacks rocked southern Pakistan's Sindh province Sunday [18 July], killing a civilian, injuring nine others and damaging several army camps, police and army sources said.

At least four bombs went off in the countryside including one in Shikarpur, killing a villager, police said. Eight others were injured.

Another low intensity device exploded in Ubaro in northern Sukkur city, but no casualties were reported, they said.

Two more bombs rocked Kotri, some 125 kilometers (77 miles) north of here late Saturday, police said.

One of the bombs exploded under an army jeep but caused no casualties, while the second went off at Kotri railway station, completely gutting one portion of a goods train.

Earlier in the day unidentified people launched grenade attacks on at least four army camps in Karachi, injuring one 40-year-old woman, an army spokesman said.

The spokesman said hand grenades were tossed at an army camp office in the Malir garrison area, another lobbed at the nearby Rangers camp office in Quaidabad early Sunday, and the third near an army checkpost in the centre of the city.

The attacks on army camps in troubled Sindh came in the wake of a strike call by the Sindh People's Youth Organisation (SPYO), which owes its allegiance to Murtaza Bhutto, brother of opposition leader Benazir Bhutto and leader of a shadowy organisation called Al-Zulfikar.

Sunday marks the eighth death anniversary of another brother, Shahnawaz Bhutto, who died under mysterious circumstances in south of France. Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party has disowned any links the SPYO.

This southern port city has been the scene of a week of arson and rioting, and hundreds of supporters of the Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), an ethnic based party, have been arrested.

Incidents of arson in government installations continued Sunday with an attack on a municipality workshop. Four state-owned vehicles were gutted and 24 damaged.

Police sources said seven SPYO members had been arrested in Hyderabad near Kotri. The SPYO claimed 35 of their men had been taken into custody throughout Sindh.

Strike in Hyderabad

BK1807162793 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] There was a partial strike in Mirpur Khas Division in Hyderabad today. Major business centers, however, were open and traffic was normal. A hand grenade was thrown at a police vehicle in [name indistinct] due to which a constable was killed and some others were injured. A vehicle was set on fire in Latifabad and firecrackers were thrown at various places in the Hyderabad, Latifabad, and Tandojan police station areas. There is no report of any loss of life. Patrolling by law enforcing agencies continues.

Over 50 Arrested

BK1907035493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] According to a press note issued by the district magistrate of Karachi Central, there were two explosions in the district yesterday in which some vehicles were damaged. Cases have been opened and inquiries are under way. Meanwhile, according to PAKISTAN PRESS INTERNATIONAL, police raided the office of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement-Altaf group at Azizabad in Karachi yesterday and arrested more than 50 persons for alleged involvement in creating the recent disturbances in various parts of the city.

A press note issued by the district magistrate of Hyderabad says the situation in Hyderabad was peaceful yesterday as usual except for a few incidents of bursting of firecrackers. A van was set on fire in Latifabad. One person was killed and eight injured in an explosion in Shikarpur yesterday.

Former Intelligence Bureau Chief Arrested

BK1807125593 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 18 Jul 93 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—Former chief of Intelligence Bureau and a staunch supporter of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, Brig (Retd) Imtiaz has been arrested. He was arrested from Karachi [words indistinct]. According to district administration of Karachi, he was asked to leave the district of Karachi immediately and later he was brought to Islamabad in custody of a sensitive agency.

Sindh Official Accuses Imtiaz of Conspiracy

BK1807131593 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 18 Jul 93 p 8

[Text] Hyderabad—Afaq Ahmad, chairman MQM [Muhajir Quami Movement] (H) [expansion unknown]—a coalition partner of the Sindh government, on Saturday [17 July] said the present disturbances in Karachi and Hyderabad created by 'known professional terrorists' are outcome of international and domestic conspiracies aimed at destablising the province.

Addressing a press conference here, he indicated that Brig. Imtiaz, former IB [Intelligence Bureau] chief is a key figure in the domestic conspiracy hatched on the instigation of the federal government with the assignment to destabilise Sindh government.

As for the international conspiracy, Afaq pointed towards the meeting between US consul general Faulk with Ishtiaq Azhar. The reported meeting between Aga Khan and Altaf Hussain in London also cannot be meaningless, he added.

Afaq took serious note of the activities of Brig. Imtiaz in Sindh and claimed he not only met some underground Altaf group terrorists in Karachi and Hyderabad but also passed on huge amounts of money to them for sinister purposes.

In reply to a question, Afaq said everybody knows of Brig. Imtiaz connections with the federal government as such his mysterious activities in Sindh cannot be meaningless. He said if Imtiaz activities were on his own, then the federal government should take notice of it and clarify its own position.

He said due to past rioting in Karachi and Hyderabad, many industries were shifted from Sindh to other parts of the country. The new spell too he said, is aimed at shifting more industries. He particularly mentioned some officers of Sindh bureaucracy belonging to Punjab

who are also instrumental in the conspiracy to create more disturbances so as to cause more shifting of industries.

Afaq Ahmad also took note of reports about the meetings of the prime minister and president with MQM (A) [Muhajir Quami Movement (Azim)] leaders. He said these meetings have exacerbated the uncertainty in [word indistinct] politics. He said the part of Altaf Hussain is clear and the myth that Altaf will come back to settle scores with opponents needs to be broken.

Personnel Changes Made in Civilian Intelligence Agencies

BK1607120193 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 16 Jul 93 p 12

[Text] Islamabad—With Secretary Establishment A.U.G. Esani elevated to the post of Secretary General, the Nawaz government also made some important changes in both the civilian intelligence agencies Thursday [15 July].

It is expected that Nisar Cheema will be appointed Director Intelligence Bureau (DIB). Cheema, presently serving in Lahore in the Ministry of Railways, was appointed Punjab IGP following the passage of centre-rule in Punjab resolution by the joint sitting of Parliament. However, the Wattoo government refused to obey the orders of the federal government due to the issuance of controversial proclamation on May 29.

Cheema, if appointed, will replace Ghouri, who is currently holding the post on current charge basis. Several other changes in the IB were made when Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was reinstated by the Supreme Court.

The government has reinstated Rauf Raja as Deputy Director in the IB. He was earlier fired because of some controversy, but the govenrment has now taken back its earlier decision.

A decision has also been taken to appoint Abdur Rahman Malik Director (Immigration and Anti-Smuggling) in the Federal Investigating Agency (FIA). He is currently serving as Director FIA in Peshawar. The post was earlier held by Maj (retd) Mohammad Amir.

The Prime Minister has also approved the appointment of A.U.G. Esani as the Secretary-General of the Establishment Division. Esani will be the fifth Secretary General of the government.

Military, Intelligence Officers Urged To Quit Politics

BK1707123793 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 17 Jul 93 p 10

[Editorial: "Can We Normalise Ourselves?"]

[Text] Let us all hope that the 'postponement' of the long march on the advice of COAS [Chief of Army Staff] General Waheed will set in motion events allowing Pakistan to 'normalise' itself. The first norm, of course, is the rehabilitation of its politics. And the most fundamental factor in political normalisation is the holding of fair and unrigged elections. Once it is possible to present to the people an honest election arena, one can dissount the possibility of politicians breaking loose and rebuffing defeat through allegations of rigging. After that, a fairly elected parliament should start with a tabula rasa, that is to say, a house without vendettas and cuss-words, where no one is enemy of the state or religion, and where there is a minimal but important bipartisan consensus on coexistence.

The army should be congratulated, but it must know that the roots of the chaos that surrounds us today start out from the GHQ. It is, therefore, the obligation of the army to put an end to this mischief of the various generals and intelligence officers acting as conductors of the civilian circus in Islamabad. General Waheed has gotten us rid of the sinister shenangians of the ISI [Interservices Intelligence] and IB [Intelligence Bureau]. Let there be a permanent solution to officers, in service or retired, interfering in our internal and foreign policy. Pakistan has been saved from being declared a terrorist state by the skin of its teeth, because General Waheed stepped in at the last moment to call off the dim-witted schemes of some of the old soldiers for world [word indistinct]. General Aslam Beg nearly destroyed the civilian government when he was COAS, then began interfering in politics against his professional oath. No one questions him on failures; no one dare oppose his demented theories, like India would fall after its troops reach the number of half a million in Kashmir. General Hamid Gul inflicted Jalalabad on us, then bestowed the self-destruct parcel of IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] on Mian Nawaz Sharif. Today, all the tribulations of Mian Nawaz Sharif are owed to this most disingenuous gift. The irredentist policies adopted by Islamabad in Afghanistan and in Central Asia were masterminded by the same brain who benefited from a scatter-brained IJI campaign against COAS Asif Nawaz to escape being pinned down for repeating fiascos. Had General Javed Nasir not been removed by the GHQ, we would have gone beyond the point of no return, without the civil society knowing what Pakistan had done wrong. Pakistan is in trouble today because of the interference of the retired officers. The GHQ must correct this. It must announce that it would prosecute all officers who play on the moral weakness and political immaturity of our civilian leaders to put into practice their crazy conspiracies of overthrowing the world. The GHQ must recognise the fact that the nation's mind has become 'militarised' under the influence of ill-educated generals, like Zia-ul-Haq. In the past weeks, when General Waheed was applying a civilian remedy to the political crisis, he must have discovered that the civilian minds he was dealing with inclined more to combat than accommodation. Now that our army has fathomed the real predicament of Pakistan [words indistinct] out reforms in its own domain, so that

the nation can tackle its problems realistically without being led astray by the fore-shortened thinking style of the bunker.

Paper Comments on Removal From U.S. Terrorism Watch List

BK1607111093 Islamabad THE NATION in English 16 Jul 93 p 6

[Editorial: "The Terrorism Label"]

[Text] The US State Department, that for quite sometime had actively been considering putting Pakistan on its list of terrorist states, has now finally determined "after a full review of the facts and the law" that Pakistan has not been providing support for the terrorism it was accused of. Cleared of the charges of terrorism in occupied Kashmir and the Indian Punjab, the country has been dropped off the so-called 'watch list' of terrorist states, and with that subsides the threat of economic and political isolation that had created a lot of anxiety in this country. It is good to see that Pakistan has finally been able to clear its name of calumny and smear and satisfy US concerns about what the State Department spokesman has described as "reports of the country's official support for Kashmiri and other militants who commit terrorist acts against India". Unfortunately, Pakistan's political harassment had started on the basis of "reports" that originated from the Indian government's propaganda machine and were aimed at deflecting the international community's attention from the true facts of the situation in Occupied Kashmir.

By pointing an accusing finger at Pakistan the Indian rulers had hoped to achieve [words indistinct] major objectives. One, to deny the legitimacy of the freedom struggle that derives its right to self-determination from the UN resolutions and two, to cover up its bloody record of gross human rights violation in the Occupied state. And the biggest irony of the situation turned out to be that Pakistan which sympathised with the victims of the Indian state's terrorism became liable for a terrorist state label, because the policy-makers in Washington had chosen to see the situation through the tinted glasses handed to them by the Indian government. Now that the State Department has found convincing evidence clearing Pakistan of any direct role in the escalation of the Kashmiri freedom movement, it would do well to look into the reports made by independent human rights organisations, which hold the Indian government responsible for mass human rights violations in Occupied Kashmir, and the consider whether the cap of terorism fits the so-called largest democracy better.